

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

NEW SERIES.

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No. 485.—Vol. V.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1864.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED, 4D.

THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS DANISH POLICY.

THE vote of censure which Mr. Disraeli wishes the House of Commons to pronounce against the Government has already in effect been pronounced by the nation. For weeks past every one has been saying, in other words, that "the course pursued by her Majesty's Government has lowered the just influence of this country in the councils of Europe;" but it does not follow from this that everyone desires to see the Earl of Derby and Mr. Disraeli in power in place of Earl Russell and Viscount Palmerston. If the chances are few that a vote hostile to the present Ministers will be carried by the House of Commons, the Government will only owe its good luck to the little confidence placed in its opponents and would-be successors. Denmark is dismembered now, and, as neither Whigs nor Conservatives propose to make any attempt to restore its integrity, its fate may be looked upon as settled. Schleswig, Holstein, and Lauenburg are lost to Denmark. Prussia may attempt to get them for herself (which would be a good thing, in so far that it would provoke a conflict between Prussia and Federal Germany), or the Duke of Augustenburg may be appointed to rule them, or the claims of the Duke of Oldenburg to their sovereignty may even be admitted; but in any case the duchies will form a separate State having nothing whatever to do with Denmark.

Now, who is answerable for this partition of Denmark having taken place? Not England, without doubt; nor is that the accusation brought against the English Government. Our Government is charged, not with having destroyed the integrity of Denmark, but with having destroyed its own

credit in Europe to such a point that a threat from it now is of less avail than a mere hint would have been a year or more ago. The sworn supporters of the Government are perpetually telling us that if England has not actively interfered to protect Denmark, France and Russia, though equally bound with us, have also abstained from active interference on her behalf, and therefore that whatever disgrace attaches to us for neglecting an ally and for allowing a treaty signed by all the European Powers to be treated as if it never existed attaches also to them. This, however, is a mistake, or, at least, a mis-statement. Neither France nor Russia has given any advice or any assurances to Denmark, whereas England from the very beginning assumed the position of Denmark's counsellor and champion. By doing so we have helped Denmark towards her ruin, which, however, may in any case have been inevitable; but we have also brought upon our own policy a discredit which certainly might have been avoided.

It is not, as is so often said by foreigners, that ours is a heartless and purely selfish policy. It is just because it is not entirely heartless that we get ourselves into awkward positions and the nations that we affect to take under our protection into terrible ones. We have too much sympathy for noble and persecuted nations not to do all we can for them in the way of diplomatic representations, but not sympathy enough to fight on their behalf. Our love of justice makes us support them up to a certain point, after which our prudence causes us to abandon them. It would be far better for those whom we afflict with our friendship that we should tell them from the very beginning, and in precise terms, to what extent

our good will is likely to take the form of active co-operation. The present Government omitted to do this when it interfered on behalf of the Poles, while in its interference on behalf of the Danes it did worse, for it led them to believe that, in certain contingencies, which in due time presented themselves, they would "not be left alone." This, if it had any meaning at all, must, coming from an English Minister, have meant that England would stand by their side. Such at least was the interpretation the Danes could not fail to give to the announcement, though, apparently, all it signified was that England *hoped* her ally would not be abandoned, and that she had confident expectations of being able to form a combination of Powers to act on her behalf. A trifling misapprehension of this kind is nothing to us; but it has, perhaps, been death to Denmark. If we had not interposed our so-called "good offices" at all, but had given Denmark to understand from the first that she must settle accounts with Germany as best she could without looking to us for assistance, then Denmark might have seen fit to withdraw the November Constitution, so obnoxious to Germany, at once, and might have made terms which, however hard, would at least have been better than those to which she will now have to submit.

The Government defence, of course, is that it did its best for Denmark, and that if it did not do better it was because nothing better could be done. We do not, for our own part, believe that England alone could ever, in any manner, have rendered important assistance to the Danes; but the Government might at least have abstained from making itself ridiculous by uttering menace after menace and receding



FETE AT THE HORTICULTURAL GARDENS IN AID OF THE FEMALE SCHOOL OF ART: H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES RECEIVING THE PURSES PRESENTED BY LADIES.

from each as soon as the time for executing it arrived. We do not say that, because the Government committed the fault of threatening, it ought therefore to commit the fault of striking; but simply that, not meaning to strike, it ought never to have threatened at all.

We perceive, by-the-way, that now, when the Government has ceased to threaten, the newspapers have in many instances begun to do so. We are told that Prussia is vulnerable in Posen, that the appearance of an English fleet in the Adriatic would be a signal for Venice to rise, and that Austria might, moreover, be attacked through Hungary and through Galicia. This also is vanity. Neither Whigs nor Conservatives wish to weaken Prussia, far less to break up Austria; and it is not so much foolish as it is criminal to pretend that we would appeal, under any circumstances, to the national and revolutionary parties in Europe. After deceiving the Poles and the Danes, it would certainly be as well to leave the Hungarians and Italians alone.

FETE IN AID OF THE FEMALE SCHOOL OF ART.

THE Female School of Art, in Queen-square, Bloomsbury, deserves the support of all those who would, rather than give merely a charity, help those who are willing to help themselves. This institution instructs in elegant and useful employments, fitted at once to please and to provide a sufficient maintenance for those ladies who are at the same time in want of some means of earning their bread and are unfitted by education and habits for merely mechanical or counter work. Doing its work well, the school has lately been found inadequate for its purpose, and a fund has been started with the view of erecting an addition to the present building. In aid of this fund a bazaar was, on the 23rd ult., opened by her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales in the grounds of the Horticultural Gardens at South Kensington—kindly placed by the council of the society at the disposal of the committee of the School of Art.

Her Royal Highness arrived at the gardens shortly after noon, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and attended by the Marchioness of Carmarthen and Lieutenant-Colonel Keppel. In the neighbouring thoroughfares were numbers of persons anxious to catch a glimpse of the Royal visitors, and meanwhile occupying their leisure by looking at the grand company, and by staring at the rapidly-disappearing walls of the Exhibition of 1862—in their present state not unsuggestive of the ruins of some grand Norman cathedral fallen into the hands of a stage-decorator with a view to "restoration." The men of the 1st Middlesex Engineers, connected with the South Kensington Museum, acted as a guard of honour, and when the Royal party arrived a salute was given and the National Anthem played. The many pupils of the Female School of art were uniformly dressed in white, with the red ribbon, which thus made up the pleasing and simple combination of the Danish colours. The Princess having been conducted to the hall, and having taken her seat upon a raised dais, the ceremonial began of presenting to her Royal Highness purses containing the collections made by, perhaps, as many as a hundred ladies, in aid of the school. This proceeding, which was in itself one of great interest, included many incidents that made it still more noteworthy. Some of the purse-bearers were children; and their various displays of childish grace, some bold and some shy, were curious to note. Young Lord Ogilvy, in a tartan dress, bore himself with remarkable ease and self-possession; one little girl ran away, in a pretty kind of bashful alarm; and another, Miss Grace Sherson, improved on the formal method of laying the purse on the salver, by walking up to the Princess and offering to deliver the treasure into her Royal Highness's own hands, a course which elicited as much approval as amusement. Upwards of £500 was deposited in about a quarter of an hour in the salvers placed before her Royal Highness.

The whole of the purses having been presented, their Royal Highnesses passed out by the back of the throne into what used to be the ice-room in the summer days of 1862. Here they encountered a set of amateur negro minstrels, who call themselves "The White Lilies of the Prairie." They performed several nigger airs and antics, to the great delight of the Prince and Princess, who seemed thoroughly to enter into the fun. Their Royal Highnesses then went into the rooms set apart for the bazaar, and commenced their examination of the stalls and the numberless beautiful objects displayed on them. After making numerous purchases, the Royal party left the building, and the amusements of the fete and bazaar began.

It would be impossible to describe the whole of the entertainments going on throughout the day; but one of the wittiest of the exhibitions was the International Dog Show, presided over by Mr. Kipling, one of the decorative artists at South Kensington Museum. Here were to be found specimens of nearly every known and unknown dog. There was the fire-dog, the Lowther-arcade mastiff, with a wind instrument attached; the prize-yard dog, measuring 37½ in. in length; the China dog, fierce and "dangerous;" others of the same material, called "Bad-Minton spaniels," from having their noses or tails chipped off; and, lastly, the "dawg" from Whitechapel, with a body like a bench, legs like crooked twigs, and claiming descent from at least fifty different families. Not only were dogs exhibited, but there was an authentic specimen of the bark of the dogs of Alcibiades, which ignorant sceptics persist in declaring to be only a piece of oak bark.

There were also two theatres, one in imitation of the time-honoured "Richardson's," with a platform whence artistes attired in motley entreated patronage for the show within; the other somewhat after the pattern of the ballet-theatre at Cremorne, and, moreover, provided with a Royal box. At the so-called "Richardson's" burlesque nautical dramas were performed; the other edifice, termed the "New Theatre," was devoted to a strange, unintelligible piece conceived in a sort of Rabelaisian spirit, and entitled "Mumbo Jumbo." Of this latter work books were sold in the garden, remarkable for the clever woodcuts, in the style of Albert Dürer, with which they were illustrated, and the mock-pedantic notes, which supply a comment to the very brief text. In this piece a ballet was most excellently danced. At both these theatres the pieces were performed with much grotesque humour, and they were very well put upon the stage.

Even more attractive than the theatre where the performers were amateurs, officered by the professional Messrs. Payne, was an entertainment called the "Paul-y-Toole-y-technic Institution," the principal element in the ridiculous word being the names of the two eminent comedians by whom the entertainment was given. Mr. Toole lectured on a number of quasi-scientific subjects with the most imposing gravity, supported by the equally august silence of Mr. Paul Bedford, till the whole exhibition wound up with a "peep-show," in which the spectators really saw nothing, but which, according to the eloquent description of Mr. Toole, was enlivened with the incidents of a romantic and harrowing tale.

DEGENERACY OF OUR WINE BOTTLES.—A circular addressed to the Chambers of Commerce by M. Behic, the French Minister of Commerce, revives the famous old question, so often debated by *Punch*, about the degenerate size of wine bottles. The Minister says that serious complaints have reached his office from England of the practice of many French merchants to export their wine in fraudulently-manufactured bottles, which, by reason of an oblong concavity in the bottom (called in London a "kick"), contain from 10 to 20 per cent less than the due quantity. M. Behic urges the Chambers of Commerce to impress upon wine merchants that these frauds greatly injure French trade, and ultimately the very persons who think to serve their own interests by having recourse to them. He considers it particularly important that France should preserve the export trade in "bottled" wines, because the English are not familiar with the delicate handling of French wines, before and at the time of bottling, which is necessary to have them in perfection, and therefore consumers generally prefer to import their wines ready bottled.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Paris papers are principally occupied with discussing the conduct of England on the Danish question. The writers are generally of opinion that this country ought to take an active part in the war, and that the failure of the Conference proves that the Emperor was right when he proposed a general congress.

From Algeria the news is that the rebellion is all but suppressed, and that military operations would terminate early this month.

SPAIN.

In the sitting of the Cortes on the 22nd ult., Senor Pacheco said that, "the squadron in the Pacific will be reinforced. The Chinch Islands will be occupied until the assassins of Talambo are punished and it is proved that the Peruvian Government was not cognisant of an attempt which had been made on the life of Senor Mazarredo, recently Spanish Minister in Peru."

PRUSSIA AND THE ZOLLVEREIN.

The treaties for the renewal of the Zollverein, as proposed by Prussia, were signed on the 28th ult. by the representative of Prussia, Saxony, Baden, Electoral Hesse, Thuringen, Brunswick, and Frankfurt.

TUNIS.

Despatches from Tunis to the 18th ult. announce the arrival of a Turkish gun-boat and schooner with important despatches. It was rumoured that the Turkish Commissioner would be ordered to return to Constantinople, which would greatly facilitate the arrangement of affairs.

MEXICO.

The Emperor and Empress of Mexico arrived at Vera Cruz on the 28th of May, and immediately proceeded to the city of Mexico. A private telegram gives information of the total defeat of Juarez, at Matuhela, by the combined Mexican and French troops. A thousand prisoners, eighteen guns, and all the matériel were captured by the French.

DENMARK AND GERMANY.

RECOMMENCEMENT OF HOSTILITIES.—CAPTURE OF ALSEN.

At almost the earliest moment after the expiry of the armistice the Prussians recommenced hostilities. The armistice terminated on Saturday night, and at six on Sunday morning the Prussians opened fire on the island of Alsen from several batteries. Eleven battalions of their army crossed the sound north of Sonderburg on Wednesday morning, and drove back the Danes, after some fighting. The Danes retired to their ships and embarked in haste. They made, no doubt, for Fünen, where a strong Danish force is placed. The capture of Alsen was an expected, and, indeed, an inevitable event. The Danes had neither men nor artillery to enable them to defend the island. It is now stated that Austria and Prussia intend to occupy the whole of Jutland, and to keep it as a guarantee; and that they will collect the taxes there, and apply the proceeds to meet the military expenses. It is probable that Schleswig and Holstein will shortly be placed, with the concurrence of the Diet, under the joint administration of the two great German Powers until the question of the succession shall have been decided. The Prussians are erecting batteries on the Jutland coast, opposite Fünen, and will, no doubt, in conjunction with the Austrians, presently attempt to become masters of that island. It is reported that they have already made an attempt to gain the island of Fünen, opposite Middlefort, but that the attempt failed from the pontoons not arriving in time.

An engagement between the Danish and German fleets is shortly expected to take place off Heligoland.

GERMAN POLICY.

The Allied Powers have dispatched a circular note to their respective representatives abroad declaring that they no longer consider themselves bound by the concessions made by them at the Conference, since peace has not been re-established. Austria announces, moreover, that she will henceforth fulfil her duty as a German Power without regard to her own special interests. A semi-official statement published a few days ago declares the assertion of Earl Russell that Austria will confine herself to the occupation of Schleswig and Holstein, to be erroneous. Prussia, it is said, will shortly propose in the Diet that the German Confederation should declare war against Denmark.

OPENING OF THE DANISH RIGS-RÅD.

The Danish Rigsraad, or common assembly of that kingdom and Schleswig, was opened on Saturday. The speech from the Throne, which was read by the President, was as follows:—

Gentlemen,—The threatening situation of the country and the extraordinary expenses caused by the war, with those its continuation will further involve, have necessitated the early convocation of the Rigsraad, to obtain its approbation of the measures already taken by my Government, and its assent to the steps by which the requisite means may be procured.

It is not we who have commenced the war. I feel conscious of having done everything that lay in my power to avoid it. We have been attacked by a stronger enemy, upon the pretext that we have not fulfilled the stipulation of 1851-2. Before the outbreak of hostilities the enemy refused to enter a Conference with the other signatories of the London Treaty, to negotiate a peaceful arrangement of the matters in dispute. After taking possession of the larger portion of the peninsula, he appeared at the Conference, but then declared himself no longer bound by the agreements of 1851 and 1852.

In my short reign I have already made the bitter experience how lightly plain right weighs at the present time in the political balance of Europe, and how a King and his faithful people may be left alone to face an overwhelmingly superior enemy. When, therefore, England, supported by all the neutral Powers represented at the London Conference, proposed that we should give up all the territory belonging to the Danish Monarchy southward of the Schlei and the Dannewerk, we resolved to bear this painful sacrifice.

The German Powers have not accepted the sacrifice. We can give up nothing more. I have, therefore, declined the summons to do so, firmly convinced that my negative is the negative of the Danish people. May God turn the hearts of those who hold the fate of Europe in their hands. May He at least increase the sympathy in a certain quarter to energetic assistance!

In the subsequent sitting of the Lower House, Bishop Monrad, the Prime Minister, stated the result so far of the Conference, and accused Earl Russell of inconsistency in having changed his ground and brought forward a new proposition after the line of demarcation in Schleswig, which England proposed, had been rejected by the German Powers.

THE GRAND DUKE OF OLDENBURG AND THE DUCHIES.

The following is the text of the declaration made at the Federal Diet by the representative of Oldenburg, embodying the Grand Duke's claim to the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein:—

The high Federal Assembly has already been officially made acquainted, through the representative of the German Diet at the London Conference, with the declaration delivered by the Russian representative at the sitting of the Conference upon the 2nd inst. This statement was that his Majesty the Emperor of Russia, to facilitate as greatly as possible the restoration of peace, had ceded to his Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Oldenburg the right of succession falling to his Majesty, as the chief of the elder Götterp line, by the abrogation of the London Treaty of 1852, and especially reserved in such event by the Warsaw protocol of 1851. His Majesty the Emperor Alexander has recently confirmed this declaration in an autograph letter addressed to the Grand Duke from Kissingen on the 19th inst., a copy of which the Government of the Grand Duke has the honour to hand forthwith to the high Federal Diet.

After mature consideration of the present state of the Schleswig-Holstein question and of the true interests of the entire German Fatherland, his Royal Highness the Grand Duke thoroughly appreciates the lofty motives of his Majesty the Emperor of Russia with regard to the obstacles to a lasting restoration of peace, and thankfully accepts the offer of the rights of succession to the duchies of Holstein and Schleswig accruing to the chief of the elder Götterp line after the abandonment of the London Treaty.

The Government of the Grand Duke, while hastening to make this notification to the high Federal Assembly, intends to neglect nothing tending to establish the rights of succession thus ceded to his Royal Highness, as first representative of the younger Götterp line, descended from Duke Peter

Frederick Louis of Oldenburg, to the duchy of Holstein and the duchy of Schleswig, inseparably connected by hereditary right with the same.

It has hitherto been unnecessary for the Government of the Grand Duke to enter protest against the claims to succession laid before the Federal Diet by another branch of the Schleswig-Holstein house immediately after the death of King Frederick VII. of Denmark, and the entire extinction thereby of the male branch of Germany and of the duchies themselves. Equally in the same interests the Government of the Grand Duke will, in future, consider it its duty to defend the rights of the various branches of the Götterp line to the succession in preference to any other, since this right, freed from the obligations of the Warsaw Protocol and the London Treaty, is no longer opposed to a separation of the duchies from Denmark, but, passing to his Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Oldenburg by the Imperial Act of cession, is called upon to render possible the complete independence of the duchies under a German Federal Prince and a restoration of peace with Denmark.

The Government of the Grand Duke reserves an explanation of the relations to the succession in Schleswig-Holstein for the establishment of the rights of succession ceded to his Royal Highness the Grand Duke, and hereby enters its protest against any result being decided upon by the high Federal Assembly with regard to the claims to the succession submitted to it by his Highness Duke Frederick of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Angustenburg.

The subject was referred to a committee to decide upon.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

THE ARMIES IN VIRGINIA.

The news from America, which comes down to the 18th ult., informs us of a fresh change in the aspect of the Virginian campaign. General Grant, having found the Confederate position on the Chickahominy as impregnable as all the others he has attacked, has made another strategical movement. When we last received any important information from him he was facing Lee's army, on the north-east of Richmond, and had been completely defeated in an attempt to force his way through the Confederate defences. He remained in the same position for no less than ten days, making no further attempt to force an advance. The repose must have been as welcome to his own army as to his adversary's; but it could not be long continued without an acknowledgment of defeat. On the 13th of June, accordingly, he and his army commenced a fresh flank movement to an entirely new field of operations. He marched again to his left, down the Chickahominy, and crossed it apparently near the ground made memorable by McClellan's disastrous battles in 1862. He must have traversed the same fields, and, like his predecessor, he reached the James River. His movement, however, did not stop there; he crossed the James River, and joined Butler at Bermuda Hundred. He seems to have effected this march unmolested, and the successful accomplishment of such a hazardous movement is a remarkable proof either of General Grant's skill or General Lee's caution, or both. The result is that Grant is now exactly on the opposite side of Richmond to that from which he began his campaign. He started from near Fredericksburg, on the north; he is now close to Petersburg, on the south. Being unable to enter Richmond in front, he has marched past it, and is now trying to get into the city at the back. In fact, he has made a half-circle round the city, and if he continues, as he has promised, to move "on this line" all the summer, he may, in process of time, complete the circle, and get round to where he started from.

The Federals had attacked Petersburg, and according to a report, which it was admitted required confirmation, had captured it. Butler was said to have destroyed the railroad between Petersburg and Richmond. General Fitzhugh Lee had encountered the Federal General Sheridan and utterly routed him with much loss.

The advance of General Hunter upon Staunton was assuming considerable importance. He had been joined by two other Generals, Crook and Averill; and Pope with 4000 men was said to be marching to his reinforcement up the Shenandoah Valley. His forces are directed towards Lynchburg, an important manufacturing town higher up the same river as Richmond (the James), and on the Virginia and East Tennessee Railroad, which is an important line of Lee's supplies. If he succeeded in seizing the town and railroad, the Confederates would not only lose an important dépôt, but the communication of Richmond with the south would depend upon one line of railway to Danville, running midway between the Petersburg and Lynchburg lines, and even this would be a very precarious resource, when Federal armies were on both sides of it. The movement is considered sufficiently serious for two divisions of the Confederate army to have been sent to defend Lynchburg, while General Early's corps, which held the left of Lee's line in his recent position on the Chickahominy, has been dispatched to attack Hunter directly.

OTHER MILITARY OPERATIONS.

The other news of minor importance compared with the struggle in Virginia. General Sherman is said to be forbidden to go any further or to risk any general engagement outside his intrenchments. This is not a hopeful position for a General in the heart of an enemy's country. Moreover, an attack upon his communications was anticipated. A Federal expedition 8000 strong, which left Memphis on the 1st of June, was met in Western Tennessee by a strong force under General Forrest, and was so completely defeated as to lose all its ammunition and artillery, and to be driven back with great loss to Memphis. This force of Forrest is believed to be moving on Sherman's rear. While the Federals are thus powerless in Tennessee, General Morgan has reappeared in Kentucky, and has retired after a successful raid.

GENERAL NEWS.

The House of Representatives, on the 13th ult., repealed the Fugitive Slave Law by a vote of 84 against 58.

A joint resolution, which originated in the Senate, for the constitutional abolition of slavery failed to receive the necessary two-thirds vote in the House of Representatives on the 15th—ninety-four members voted for and sixty-five against it.

Mr. Vallandigham has left Canada and returned to Ohio. On the 15th he made a speech at a Democratic convention in Hamilton, in which he declared that he would hereafter defend his liberty with his life, unless deprived of it by due process of law. He subsequently proceeded to his residence at Dayton.

Judge Russell had instructed the grand jury to inquire into the recent suppressions of the *World* and *Journal of Commerce* newspapers, and, if the laws of the State have been violated, to indict all the parties concerned.

THE CONFERENCE.

THE protocols of conferences relative to the affairs of Denmark, held in London, from the 25th of April to the 22nd of June, 1864, presented to both Houses of Parliament on Monday night, comprise 146 folio pages of printed matter, and are accompanied, in the form of an "annex to Protocol No. 12," by a summary of the deliberations from the first meeting to the break-up of the Conference, written by one of the Plenipotentiaries. This summary commences with a brief glance at the events which preceded the opening of the Conference. The writer then goes on to detail the animated discussions which resulted in the conclusion of an armistice for four weeks. When the discussion on the preliminaries of peace commenced, on the 12th of May, explanations were given by the Plenipotentiaries of the German Courts, which brought to light a complete divergence of opinion existing between all the members of the Conference with regard to the validity of the engagements resulting from the Treaty of London of 1852. The German Plenipotentiaries considered the ground of discussion as entirely free from any restriction resulting from engagements which might have existed before the war between their Governments and Denmark. But this was not the feeling of the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Russia, and Sweden. In Protocol 5 we get the terms which the German Plenipotentiaries considered adapted to bring about a durable peace. It seems that the idea of the Courts of Vienna and Berlin was to make the duchies entirely independent in political and administrative matters, to allow a dynastic tie to subsist between the duchies and the Danish monarchy, but to make that tie dependent on the decision which the Frankfurt Diet might give as to the validity of

the title of King Christian IX., in his quality of Duke of Holstein. The Plenipotentiary of the Germanic Confederation would not join in this, and the Danish thought it inadmissible. On May 28 the Plenipotentiaries of Austria and Prussia brought forward a plan still more unexpected than the first, and which had for its object to demand a complete separation of the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein from the kingdom of Denmark, and their union in a single state under the sovereignty of the hereditary Prince of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Augustenburg. Protocol No. 6 gives the reasons which determined the Ambassador of Russia to express his dissent with regard to the proposition of the Plenipotentiaries of the German Courts to detach from the Danish monarchy the whole of Holstein and Schleswig and to place that State under a new dynasty. Of course the Danish representatives would not listen to this; and the period for the suspension of arms was approaching its termination when Earl Russell brought forward a project of a division of Schleswig and the sacrifice of Holstein, which he described on Monday night in the House of Lords. This plan, which had been previously communicated to the representatives of the neutral Powers, received their most cordial support in the Conference. The Protocol of June 2 contains the declaration by which the Ambassador of Russia announced to the Conference that the Emperor, desiring to facilitate, as far as depends on him, the arrangements to be concluded between Denmark and Germany with a view to the re-establishment of peace, had ceded to Monseigneur the Grand Duke of Oldenburg the eventual rights which section 3 of the Protocol of Warsaw of May 24 (June 5), 1851, reserved to his Majesty as chief of the elder branch of Holstein-Gottorp. The said protocol was deposited in the archives of the Conference. Another suspension of hostilities took place. The succeeding protocols record the discussions on the vital question of frontier, including the suggestions of England that a friendly Power should be appealed to to trace the line. Austria and Prussia, "while showing themselves disposed to accept the mediation of a neutral Power not represented in the Conference, were not willing to engage beforehand to consider themselves definitively bound by the opinion which might be expressed by the mediating Power, as circumstances did not allow them to accept an arbitral decision." The Danish Government expressed a refusal even more decided. The Danish Plenipotentiary insisted that the boundary proposed by Earl Russell and accepted by Denmark was final; but this Lord Clarendon would not allow, and the Plenipotentiaries of Russia, France, and Sweden also affirmed that Earl Russell never intended to propose this line as an ultimatum. Then came a proposition from the French Plenipotentiary that a vote should be taken, in the absence of military forces, in the mixed districts of Schleswig. Earl Russell, in asking the opinion of the Danish Plenipotentiaries on this proposal, said that, as regarded the English Plenipotentiaries, they would be disposed to concur if the Danish Government thought proper to give their adhesion. M. de Quade replied that he was, of course, without instructions on the subject, and that he could not even consent to accept it *ad referendum*. He alluded to his declaration of the 2nd of June, in which he said that his Government would make great sacrifices in order to obtain the restoration of peace, but that there were limits beyond which they could not go; and his instructions forbade him to consent to any other line than that proposed by the English Plenipotentiaries in the sitting of the 28th of May, and accepted by Denmark. "This declaration," says the summary writer, "ended the debate. It showed at the same time the obstacles which the most persevering efforts of the neutral Powers have not been able to overcome. It is before this insurmountable difficulty that the labours of the Conference of London have come to an end."

THE EXILED POLES.

THE news from Poland contains but few records of any further progress in the insurrection, which the Russians represent to be trampled out, while the patriotic Poles declare that it is only smoldering until an opportunity offers of reviving the flame. The rule of the Russian Generals, however, has not yet relaxed in its severity, and the deportations to Siberia continue, insurgents and suspects of all classes being sent indiscriminately to penal servitude. Our Engraving represents one of the latest convoys during the inclement season, when the prisoners suffered greatly from the badness of the weather and from the mode in which the first part of their journey was performed, in sledges, under the direction of the Cossack escort. Some particulars of the mode of deportation may be learned from the letter of a young Polish gentleman, one of the banished patriots who, with some others, joined the party of 286 people condemned to banishment in the interior of Russia. The letter commences at Wilna, in Lithuania, from which place the journey was continued by railway to Tskowa, fifty of the prisoners being crowded into one small carriage, after having been driven to the station like beasts and refused even the refreshment of a drink of water. As they proceeded on their journey, after leaving Tskowa, however, those who had the means of paying for it were allowed by the officer in charge to take tea at one or two of the stations. The prisoners arrived at Moscow only after a long and wearisome journey which occupied several days, although the surveillance became less strict the further they got from Wilna. After reaching Moscow they took their luggage on their backs and walked through the town, passing the theatre, the University, and the Kremlin on their way to the prison, where they were shut up with a great many more insurgents, as many as three hundred having been confined there during the previous two months. From this place they were hurried off on the following evening to continue their journey.

"From Moscow," says the writer of this letter, "begins the kind custom of the people in presenting the prisoners passing through the villages and towns with different things. It is a religious custom, and I observed that already at Moscow shopkeepers and women were bringing out coins and loaves of bread; they made the sign of the cross, and gave them as alms 'for the repose of the soul of their father,' &c. Our party did not accept these gifts, but thanked the people most civilly all the same. As we were not the first who had declined them the people quietly went away, saying that we were 'Poles.' It is only in a few places that they insulted us, being instigated by the soldiers. At the station a great many loaves and ten roubles in money were brought from a merchant, but we did not accept them. The journey from Moscow to the Lower Novgorod, although we went quicker than before, was very uncomfortable, owing to the darkness of the criminal carriages in which we were shut up and the impossibility of seeing anything. In the Lower Novgorod, peasants' coats were given to us, as well as very coarse shirts and sheepskin furs. Instead of boots, we received shoes called 'thelats.' The money allowed us for provision was distributed with uncertainty. At Wilna we were horribly cheated, and not a farthing was given to us for our keep. At Tskowa very bad sour kraut was served out twice a day, and two pounds of black bread. From Tskowa to Moscow twelve kopijki (a Russian coin the hundredth part of a rouble, which is 3s. 4d.) were given to us a day. From Moscow to the Lower Novgorod, six kopijki were given, and in Lower Novgorod only four. At the different stations further on the road three kopijki and a half were given; therefore the alms on the journey are a great, even an indispensable, aid for the unfortunate exiles, who have no other means whatever. We kept ourselves with the provisions we had still from Wilna, and afterwards had to pay very dearly from our own pockets. In the Lower Novgorod thieves and criminals of all kinds joined us, and we were sent off on foot. There were no conveyances which could be used for those who were fatigued, and only a few times were we able to hire carts from the soldiers who were conveying us, as during the winter the post and all the transports are conveyed by the winter road, therefore we also had to avoid the main road, and we were journeying partly on the Wolga, and then by small roads from village to village. The weariness of such a journey can easily be understood, particularly to men not used to it, and still released from prisons, where they had been confined for months."

The further the party travelled, the worse became the roads and the greater their hardships, and, after leaving the banks of the

frozen Wolga, the country became very desolate and the journey more difficult. In one village where they stayed for a night ninety-two prisoners were compelled to sleep in one room; and their journey next morning lay through a bare, snow-covered country, without even a tree to break its blank monotony. Even the closely-packed, ill-ventilated rooms and the terrible roads, however, might be borne but for the brutality of the soldiers forming the escort, who scold and abuse the prisoners, not seldom striking them with the butt-ends of their muskets, and forbidding them to rest for a moment on the carts. Each escort belongs to its own particular station, and takes the prisoners on a stage to the next halting-place, where another escort relieves them of this duty. When it is added that the prisoners seldom have any opportunity of seeing the officers, and that the soldiers are themselves the contractors from whom alone provisions may be purchased, the condition of these poor transports may be imagined. Milk, sour kraut, and black bread, at exorbitant prices, are all that can be obtained. On this fare they are compelled to perform a journey often through snow and cutting wind, many of them falling from want of strength to walk over the uneven roads, their hands, feet, and faces numbed and frost-bitten with the piercing cold. The Poles who are sent away as insurgents are, it seems, not separated from the ordinary criminals. "Almost everywhere," continues the letter which we have already quoted, "the peasants show sympathy for the criminals, from whom we, as Poles, are not separated. When we pass through villages, from each cottage bread, cakes, and even money was brought out. From the villages more distant they came to meet us on the road. However, we did not accept anything, but the common criminals were loaded with provisions. Yesterday we rested for a little while in a large village on the bank of the Wolga, named Lyskovo. Here one of the wealthy peasants named Boldarew, when dying, left a certain perpetual fund for providing every Monday a party of men going to Siberia with a good dinner, in a house built for the purpose. In a warm room, warm sour kraut and groats were given, also white bread. The female peasants quite fêted the criminals. When the peasants present perceived that many of us were partaking of little loaves bought with our money, instead of the hospitality of the kind Boldarew, they began talking with us, and I must say we found in them a great deal of sensibility. They understood well what was explained to them; they betrayed none of that hatred towards us for which the more intelligent class of Russians, the Court, and the aristocracy, are so remarkable. All these good qualities, however, did not prevent them from robbing us and cheating on whatever we bought." It is quite evident that, under these circumstances, only the wealthier amongst the transports, and those against whom there is so little proof that they are allowed to retain their own personal property, can hope to escape terrible suffering.

"We are, however, all well; all are in good spirits; we all help each other, and are all like brothers. We have managed so that until now nobody is in want. We are always cheerful, and make plenty of noise at the stations, as we sing national songs, hymns in chorus, and just now one of our poets prevents me from writing. We beg all of you to be at ease about us. We shall not die, and when past Harau the exiles of former years in Siberia have taught the inhabitants to respect the Poles."

It may well be that an insurrection led and maintained by such spirits as these is difficult to trample out, and may burst forth afresh at any moment.

THE ACTION BETWEEN THE ALABAMA AND THE KEARSARGE.

WE gave in our last week's Number a pretty full account of the naval combat in the Channel between the Federal ship Kearsarge and the Confederate cruiser Alabama, which resulted in the sinking of the latter. A great deal of discussion has arisen as to the fairness of the match, and Captain Winslow, of the Kearsarge, has been blamed for challenging Captain Semmes without informing him that the Federal vessel was protected with iron; but Captain Winslow's letter, which we print below, disposes of this charge. Much has also been said about the respective armaments and crews of the two vessels; but no fact of importance has been elicited beyond those given by us last week.

CAPTAIN SEMMES AT CHERBOURG.

Before leaving Cherbourg Harbour Captain Semmes assembled his crew, and in a fervid oration announced that the time had arrived for them to conquer or die. His speech was received with cries, many times repeated, of "Hurrah for the South!" "Cheers for Lee and for his army!" "Cheers for France, the only nation who generously and impartially carries out her neutrality!" Captain Semmes then referred to a letter recently published by him on naval belligerent rights, and concluded his speech by saying that "that document had been drawn up in order that the truth might be known in case he should perish." At half-past nine o'clock, after clearing for action, the Alabama, which was under steam all the morning, banked up her fires, and left her anchorage to take the open. The whole population of Cherbourg was on the port, on the breakwater, on the heights—in fact, on every point where a view of the battle could be obtained. When the Alabama, as she got under way, ran up the Confederate flag to her mainmast and saluted it with a salvo of guns, loud cheers arose. The sympathy of the population was evidently with the South.

CAPTAIN WINSLOW'S STATEMENT.

The following letter from Captain J. A. Winslow, Commander of the Kearsarge, has been published:—

There have been so many nonsensical publications on the engagement which took place between the Alabama and Kearsarge that it is my wish that a correction should be made.

In the first place, no challenge was sent by Captain Winslow; to have done so would have been to have violated the order of the Navy Department. On the contrary, Captain Winslow received a request from Captain Semmes not to leave, as he would fight the Kearsarge, and would only occupy a day or two in his preparations. Five days, however, elapsed before they were completed. The Kearsarge's battery consists of seven guns, two 11-inch Dahlgrens, four 32-pounders, one light rifle 28-pounder. The battery of the Alabama consisted of one 100-pounder rifle, one heavy 68 ditto, six 32-pounders—that is, one more gun than the Kearsarge. In the wake of the engines on the outside the Kearsarge had stopped up and down her sheet chains. These were stopped by marine to eye-bolts, which extended some 20 ft., and was done by the hands of the Kearsarge; the whole was covered by light plank to prevent dirt collecting. It was for the purpose of protecting the engines when there was no coal in the upper part of the bunkers, as was the case when the action took place. The Alabama had her bunkers full and was equally protected. The Kearsarge went into action with a crew of 162 officers and men. The Alabama, by report of the Deerhound's officers, had 150.

The Kearsarge steamed to sea in order that no questions of neutrality jurisdiction should be raised; when far enough she turned short round and steered immediately for the Alabama for close action. The Alabama fired, as she was coming down on her, two broadsides and a part of another; no one shot came on board the Kearsarge. The Kearsarge then sheered and opened on the Alabama, trying to get nearer. The action lasted one hour and two minutes from the first to the last shot. The Kearsarge received twenty-eight shots above and below, thirteen about her hull; the best shots were about the mainmast, two shots which cut the chain-stops, the shell of which broke the casing of wood covering. They were too high to have damaged the boilers had they penetrated. The Kearsarge was only slightly damaged, and I supposed the action for hot work had just commenced when it ended. Such stuff as the Alabama firing when she was going down, and all such talk, is twaddle. The Alabama towards the last hoisted sail to get away, when the Kearsarge was laid across her bows, and would have raked had she not surrendered, which she had done, and was trying to get her flags down, and showing a white flag over the stern. The officers of the Alabama on board the Kearsarge say that she was a complete slaughter-house, and was completely torn to pieces. This is all I know of the Alabama.

Galvani publishes Captain Winslow's official report of the late engagement with the Alabama, to which there is the following postscript:—

Captain Semmes complains that he was fired into after striking, and that the boats of the Kearsarge were not sent soon enough. Captain Semmes knows well that had it been known the Alabama had surrendered, another gun would never have been discharged, and the two undisciplined boats were sent immediately when his condition was known. It would seem strange that such complaints come from one who did not hesitate, and availed him

self of the means sent in the cause of humanity to save life, to make off; and could the captain of the Kearsarge have believed it was possible for the commander of the Deerhound to have acted so dishonourably, he would have instantly sunk the Deerhound.

Captain Winslow has made a demand for the delivery of the men belonging to the Alabama who were rescued from drowning by the French pilot-boats and carried into the port of Cherbourg. His requisition is addressed to M. Bonfils, the Confederate agent there.

The following is the correspondence which has passed on the subject:—

United States' steam-ship Kearsarge, Cherbourg, June 21.

Sir,—Certain pilot-boats which out of humanity I allowed to save several prisoners when the Alabama sank carried them to Cherbourg. Those officers and seamen are not the less subject to the obligations imposed by the laws of war; they are my prisoners, and I demand that they should be sent ashore on board the Kearsarge. In case they should endeavour to escape those obligations under favour of the means which have been employed, they must not in any similar case expect mercy. J. A. WINSLOW.

The following reply was sent:—

Sir,—I have received your letter of the 21st. The object of your claim is one of those over which I can exercise no control; and I must observe that your application ought to have been addressed to the French Government, with whom those unfortunate men have found refuge. I am not aware of any law of war which would prevent a soldier from escaping from a field of battle after a defeat, even should he have been already made prisoner; and I do not see why a sailor should not be able to do the same by swimming. I must refuse to act as your intermediary with certain persons, whom you do not even name, and whom you nevertheless claim as being your prisoners; neither can I comprehend how the United States authorities can pretend to retain prisoners within the limits of the French Empire.

BONFILS.

The Paris journal *La France* makes the subjoined comments on Captain Winslow's demand:—

The captain of the Kearsarge has just addressed the following letter to M. Bonfils, commercial agent of the Alabama, claiming as his prisoners the persons belonging to the latter vessel who were saved by pilot-boats. The application raises a question of international law which would not be one according to the principles adopted in France. A prisoner of war who escapes and succeeds in touching the French soil is undoubtedly free; neither can a foreign vessel of war have prisoners on board when she is in French waters. But it appears that the Washington Cabinet does not admit those principles; at least, that would seem to be the case from the letter of the captain of the Kearsarge. The reply made to him appears to us to be decisive.

Captain Winslow also, it is said, considers Semmes and his officers bound upon their honour to give themselves up as his prisoners of war. About five minutes before the Alabama went down, a boat from her came to the Kearsarge with an officer, who surrendered the vessel and then asked permission to return with his boat to assist in picking up the men. This was granted, when the officer left, and, after rescuing a number, he went on board the English yacht and escaped. The ground upon which Captain Winslow makes this claim—if he has made it—of course is, that the Alabama having been surrendered, the crew must be considered to have surrendered with her; but then, he should have captured them, as he would have been bound to take possession of the ship herself before the capture could be considered complete; for there are plenty of instances in the annals of naval warfare of vessels, crew, and all, making their escape after hauling down their flag.

THE DEERHOUND AND THE RIVAL VESSELS.

Mr. Mason, the Confederate commissioner, has addressed a letter to Mr. Lancaster, the owner of the Deerhound, thanking him for the assistance rendered by him in saving the crew of the Alabama, as well as for the kindness subsequently shown to them on board the English yacht. Mr. Mason concludes his letter thus:—

I am fully aware of the noble and disinterested spirit which prompted you to go to the rescue of the gallant crew of the Alabama, and that I can add nothing to the recompense already received by you and those acting under you in the consciousness of having done as you would be done by; yet you will permit me to thank you, and, through you, the captain, officers, and crew of the Deerhound, for this signal service; and to say that, in doing so, I but anticipate the grateful sentiment of my country and of the Government of the Confederate States.

Some blame having been cast upon Mr. Lancaster for his conduct on the occasion of the recent combat, and it having even been asserted that the Deerhound acted as a consort, or, at least, a tender, to the Alabama, Mr. Lancaster has addressed a letter to the *Daily News*, in which he says:—

I come now to the more definite charges advanced by your correspondents, and these I will soon dispose of. They maintain that my yacht was in the harbour of Cherbourg for the purpose of assisting the Alabama, and that her movements before the action prove that she attended her for the same object. My impression is that the yacht was in Cherbourg to suit my convenience and pleasure, and I am quite sure that when there I neither did, nor intended to do, anything to serve the Alabama. We steamed out on Sunday morning to see the engagement, and the resolution to do so was the result of a family council whereat the question "to go out" or "not to go out" was duly discussed, and the decision in the affirmative was carried by the juveniles rather against the wish of both myself and my wife. Had I contemplated taking any part in the movements of the Alabama I do not think I should have been accompanied by my wife and several young children. One of your correspondents, however, says that he knows that the Deerhound did assist the Alabama, and if he does know this he knows more than I do. As to the movements of the Deerhound before the action, all the movements with which I was acquainted were for the objects of enjoying the summer morning and getting a good and safe place from which to watch the engagement. Another of your correspondents declares that since the affair it has been discovered that the Deerhound was a consort for safe-keeping from that vessel. This is simply untrue. Before the engagement neither I nor any of my family had any knowledge of, or communication with, either Captain Semmes, any of his officers, or any of his crew. Since the fight I have inquired from my captain whether he or any of my crew had had any communication with the Captain or crew of the Alabama prior to meeting them on the Deerhound after the engagement, and his answer, given in the most emphatic manner, has been "None whatever." As to the deposit of chronometers and other valuable articles, the whole story is a myth. Nothing was brought from the Alabama to the Deerhound, and I never heard of the tale until I saw it is an extract from your own columns. After the fight was over, the drowning men picked up, and the Deerhound steaming away to Southampton, some of the officers who had been saved began to express their acknowledgments for my services, and my reply to them, which was addressed also to all who stood around me, was:—"Gentlemen, you have no need to give me any special thanks. I should have done exactly the same for the other people if they had needed it." This speech would have been a needless and, indeed, an absurd, piece of hypocrisy if there had been any league or alliance between the Alabama and the Deerhound.

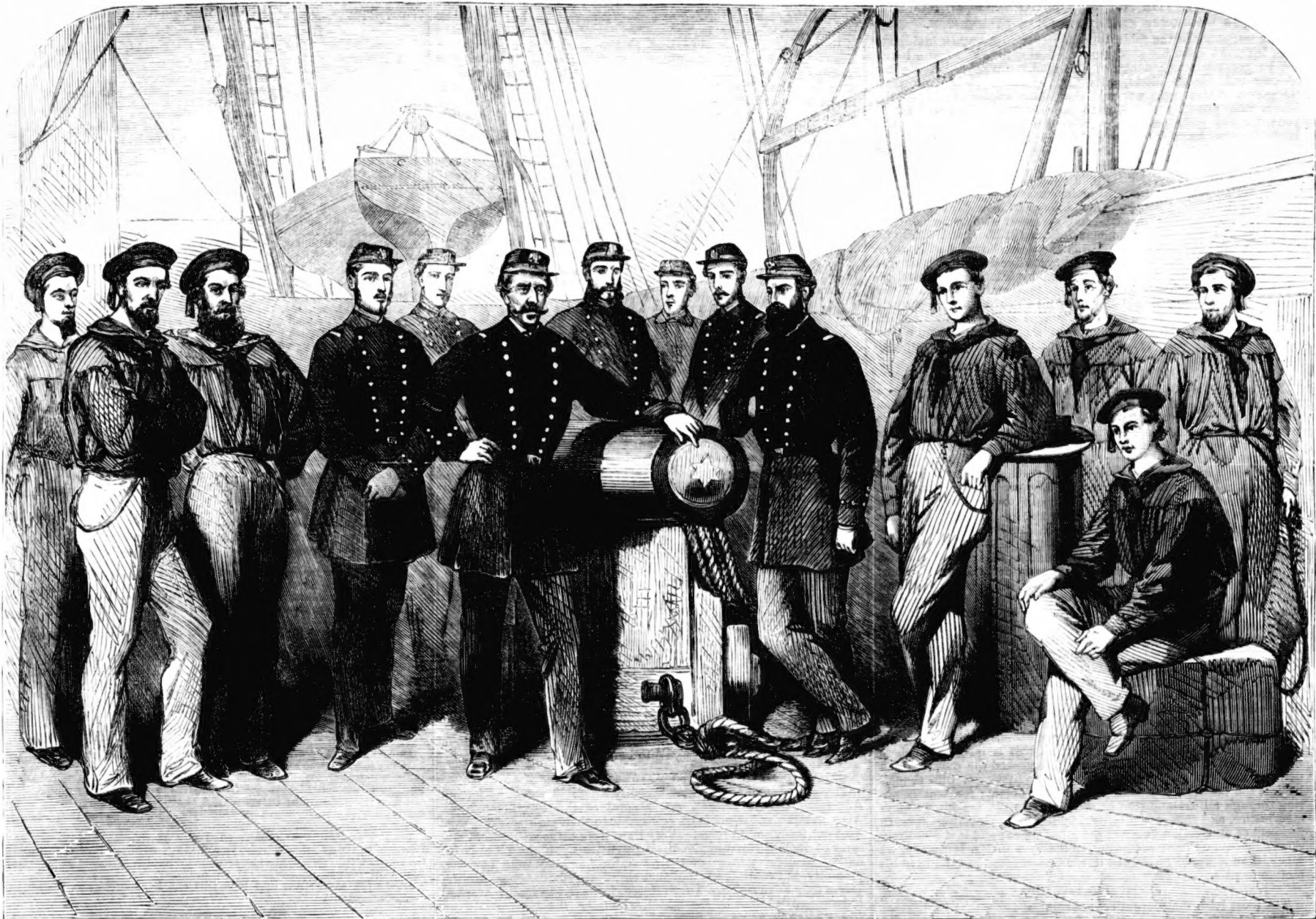
One of our Illustrations represents a group of the Alabama's crew after their arrival at Southampton; while the other two Engravings respectively show the fight between the vessels, and the scene presented when Captain Semmes was addressing his crew before leaving Cherbourg.

THE RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT EGHAM.—The inquest on the bodies of the victims of the late disaster at Egham has been concluded. It was stated that every effort had been made to procure the attendance of the under-guard of the second train, Dempsey, but he could not be found. A witness who was in the guard's van before and during the accident declared that the guard was sober and attending to his duties, and that he applied the break just before the collision took place. The unfortunate young man, Louis Ray, who underwent amputation in both his feet, appears to have had a relapse, which inspires some fears as to the result. The jury, in their verdict, found Lee, the driver of the second train, and Trainer, the fireman, guilty of manslaughter, and they censured the London and South-Western Railway Company for not having a turn-table at Arcot, for starting trains five minutes after each other, and for not telegraphing trains from station to station.

A RUNAWAY TRAIN.—On the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway last week a luggage-train, consisting of thirty or forty wagons, started from Sheffield towards Dunford. At Dunford there is a steep incline, and while the train was ascending this portion of the road a coupling chain broke, and the wagons, becoming detached, ran back. The guard in charge of the train telegraphed to Penistone, with a view to having the runaway wagons shunted on the down line. The message was received three minutes after the mail-train from Manchester had passed, and the wagons went forward in the same track. The mail-train reached Sheffield first, and was shunted out of the way just as the wagons rushed through the station at a very rapid rate. The wagons continued their course unchecked until they reached the Dunalp banks, about five miles from Sheffield. Here there was an incline, and they were brought to a stand after running about twenty miles. Fortunately, no damage was done either to person or property.



CONVOY OF ENGLISH PRISONERS ON THEIR WAY TO SIBERIA.—FROM A SKETCH BY M. CARATTE.



J. Connor, Capt. of Afterguard. G. Addison, Armourer. D. Owen, First-class Fireman. E. A. Maffit, Midshipman. Mr. Bullock, Master. Capt. Semmes. G. T. Fullom, Master's Mate. D. C. Cuddy, Gunner. Lieut. Kell, Chief Officer. W. McClellan, Seaman. C. Stasen, Capt. of Forecastle. J. Brosnan, Boatswain's Mate. R. Longshew, Seaman.

SOME OF THE OFFICERS AND CREW OF THE ALABAMA: A GROUP SKETCHED AT SOUTHAMPTON.



AMATEUR NEGRO MINSTRELS AT THE FETE IN THE GARDENS OF THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY IN AID OF THE FEMALE SCHOOL OF ART.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 242.

THE WAGGONER CRIES TO JUPITER PALMERSTON.

THE waggoner in the fable, when his waggon got stuck fast in the ruts, fell down upon his knees and cried aloud, "Oh, Jupiter! help me to get my waggon out of the mud." Whereupon Jupiter, looking out of his cloud, said thus in effect to the prostrate waggoner, "Get up, get up, thou lazy waggoner; whip thy horses and put thy shoulder to the wheel, and then will I help you; for the gods only help men who help themselves." Our Irish friends have long been in the case of the waggoner, and are for ever crying to Jupiter; and last week the cry was lifted up again in the House through Ireland's mouthpiece, Mr. John Pope Hennessy. "Help, Jupiter! Help, Jupiter! Our people are all leaving us, flowing in continuous and never-failing stream to the United States. One million and a half have already gone—still the stream flows on—and, unless something be done, all will go, and there will be no man left to till the land. Help us, then, Jupiter; help us!" Such was the doleful strain with which the hon. member for King's County taxed our drowsy ears on that Tuesday night, and the cry was echoed by Mr. Maguire, and re-echoed by Mr. Monsell, and taken up passionately, when it was about to fall, by Mr. McMahon. And all these men delivered very good speeches, and unquestionably proved a case. The Irish are leaving Ireland, leaving it at the rate of a hundred thousand a year and more. Last year 117,000 went; this year they are going in still greater numbers.

JUPITER ANSWERS.

"And all this while Jupiter Palmerston sat cozily in his seat, now listening, now dozing, as his wont is, with arms across his breast, his legs stretched out, and his hat over his eyes. At length, however, he rouses himself and rises to his feet—comes out of his cloud, as it were, and makes answer to his petitioners, much in the same style as Olympian Jove, only more politely and paraphrastically, wrapping his advice well up in sugared phrase, as it becomes a Jupiter in his circumstances to do. For our Jupiter, you know, is not a despotic deity like him who spoke to the waggoner, but holds his throne in no small measure by the will of these petitioners, and therefore, whilst uttering his advice, had to be careful not to offend. It was impossible not to admire the adroitness with which he managed this delicate business. He praised the Irish people. They were "an affectionate people;" they are "most admirable workmen," as anybody who has employed them knows, and it is distressing to see them leave the country; and thus, with honeyed phrase, he wound up the counsel which he had to give, and which, if we look at it, was simply that which Jupiter gave to the carter. "You must help yourselves, gentlemen. If you can't, by the offer of higher wages, keep your people at home, I cannot do it for you. It is simply a question of the Law of Level—a law of Nature, which enacts that, as water will find its level, so labour will flow where it is wanted. Olympus cannot make water flow uphill. Neither can Downing-street prevent labour from going where it is required. So you must help yourselves, pay your labourers better, and they will stay at home. If you cannot do this, they will certainly go to those who can." Now, all this is incontrovertible; but it did not satisfy Mr. Hennessy. He pushed the question to a division, and lost by a majority of eighty to fifty-two. But, though he lost the battle, he probably gained his object; for will it not ring through all Ireland that he attempted to get for his countrymen justice, and that it was refused by the Whig Government? In prospect of an election, this was not a bad move; and it was entirely successful—much more successful, in the eyes of Mr. Hennessy, we fancy, than it would have been if the Government had allowed his motion to pass.

JUSTICE TO IRELAND.

The most Irish malcontent cannot complain now that Parliament will not consider Irish interests. Last week we had one or more Irish measures before the House of Commons every day, and one morning sitting and three nights were almost entirely occupied by Irish members. Very little, however, was done. On Monday the Irish Railway Travelling Bill was thrown out; on Tuesday morning the Irish Chancery Bill came temporarily to grief; in the evening of the same day Mr. Hennessy lost his motion upon Irish emigration; on Wednesday the Chancery Bill was galvanised into life again by special motion, but is still in peril; on Thursday Sir Hugh Cairns' resolution on Irish nunnery schools was defeated; and on Friday, after a struggle of several hours, the Irish Chancery Bill failed to get into Committee.

SIR GEORGE BOWYER AND HIS BLUNDER.

And now we are upon Irish matters we will describe a laughable blunder which was made by Sir George Bowyer. Sir George Bowyer, though, is not an Irishman. He is an English country gentleman, son of the late Sir George Bowyer, Bart., of Radley Park, Berkshire; but he represents an Irish borough—Dundalk; and, since his conversion (or perversion, as Protestants call it) to Romanism, has devoted himself almost exclusively to Irish interests. Sir George is a D.C.L. of Oxford, a member of the Middle Temple, a famous authority on canon law, and a highly cultivated gentleman. He is, moreover, a Knight of Malta; and, if our readers will take the trouble on some Sunday morning to go to the Roman Catholic Church, in St. George's-fields, they will see the hon. Baronet within the altar-rail attired in the robes of his order. Converts are always zealous; and there is no more ardent son of the Roman Catholic Church in the House of Commons than Sir George. In appearance he is a very grave and venerable person—using the word venerable in its true sense, and not as denoting age. He is of the middle height, squarely built, has a massive head, a broad and towering forehead, and a most imposing beard. In profile, Sir George is very much like the portraits of Socrates which have come down to us. When, however, you get a front view, the likeness vanishes; but, either way, his face, if we saw it upon a medal or in sculpture, would pass well enough for that of an old Greek philosopher. We have said that Sir George is not an Irishman. He is, however, very apt to blunder, and, learned though he be, is as illogical at times as the most genuine Milesian. And now for the blunder which he committed last week. Sir Hugh Cairns' motion, which ran as follows, was before the House:—"That the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland have acted at variance with the principles of the system of national education, in sanctioning State aid to convent and monastic schools." This, as our readers will see, was pointed, not at the conduct of the Commissioners of Irish Education generally, but at the endowment of monastic and convent schools. Now it came into the ever-scheming brain of Mr. Pope Hennessy that, by moving as an amendment the words "sanctioning State aid to convent and monastic schools" be omitted, he could turn the tables against Sir Hugh Cairns. It is true, that by so doing he would actually move an entirely new and different resolution; and it is equally true that this was a very audacious thing to do; but Mr. Hennessy is never wanting in audacity—"He dare do all that may become a man," and more; and so he moved an amendment, and, in due time, the House came to a division upon this amendment, and, of course, Sir George voted, or, rather, we ought to say, intended to vote for it; for, as it happened, he was obliged at last to vote against it, as we shall see. The question was put, as usual, in this form—"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question." "They that are for it say 'Aye.'" Then there was a shout of "Aye!" from Sir Hugh Cairns and his friends. "They that are against it," said the Speaker, "say 'No.'" "No!" roared out Mr. Hennessy and his fellow-conspirators, including, of course, Sir George. "The 'Ayes' have it," said Mr. Speaker. Now here, be it remembered, that when Mr. Speaker has thus provisionally decided, if no one challenges his decision by contradicting him, there can be no division. Well, Sir George intended to challenge; but, his massive head having somehow got muddled, instead of calling out, "The 'Noes' have it!" he cried out, so as to be well heard, "The 'Ayes' have it!" The House then proceeded to divide; and Sir George, though he had challenged for the "Ayes," voted with the "Noes"—of course, wholly ignorant or oblivious that, by doing so, he was breaking a

rule of the House, or perhaps thinking that the blunder would escape observation. This, however, was not to be; for when the division was over an honourable member—name not given—sitting in his place—head covered, as the manner is on such occasions—called Mr. Speaker's attention to the fact that the honourable member for Dundalk had given his voice with the "Ayes" and his vote with the "Noes." Whereupon Mr. Speaker called Sir George to the table, and this colloquy ensued:—

THE SPEAKER—The vote of the hon. member for Dundalk has been challenged on the ground that he gave his voice with the "Ayes," and his vote with the "Noes." Did the hon. member challenge the decision of the Speaker that the "Ayes" had it, and then give his vote on the opposite side?

SIR G. BOWYER—When you put the question I said "No;" but afterwards, in order to ensure a division, I contradicted you, and said the "Ayes" had it.

THE SPEAKER—Under these circumstances the hon. member having challenged the decision of the Speaker, and said the "Ayes" had it, his vote must be taken on the side on which he gave his voice—namely, the ayes.

A shout of laughter greeted Sir George as he slunk thus discomfited and baffled to his seat. But what did Sir George mean by saying, that he contradicted the Speaker and cried "The 'Ayes' have it!" to secure a division. The Speaker had already decided that the "Ayes" had it; and by Sir George's crying out himself "The 'Ayes' have it," he confirmed the decision of the Speaker. His head must, indeed, have gone a-woolgathering.

THE GREAT QUESTION.

Is it peace or war? Lord war by land and sea,
War with a thousand battles, and shaking a hundred thrones?

This was the question which was to be answered on Monday night, and never since Mr. Speaker was elected to the chair has he seen such a crowd in the House at prayers as that which met his eyes as he stood at the table with his chaplain by his side on this occasion. It is calculated that soon after the House opened there were nearly 600 members present, and we believe that this estimate was not too high. Every seat was occupied, both on the floor and in the side galleries. Numbers squatted on the steps in the gangways, and numbers clustered below the gangway and behind the chair, standing, because there was no more room upon the benches, for, be it known, that though some million and a half of money has been expended on the Palace of Westminster, the chamber of the Commons is not nearly large enough to accommodate all the members. Not more than 500 out of the 656 can find seats. Pity that Sir Charles Barry did not give us less ornament and more room for our money.

CROWD IN THE LOBBY.

In the lobby, the crowd of strangers, all anxious to get into the House, was so great, that to drill them sufficiently into order, so as to provide a clear passage for Mr. Speaker and his suite to pass into the house, tasked all the energies of the police; and as soon as the procession had passed, and the door was shut, as it always is while the House is at prayers, the doorway was so beset with eager applicants for admission that the Inspector and his men had at length, by main force, to sweep the entire crowd away and across the lobby. And when the door was opened, and the House had been "made," this operation had again to be performed.

ANGRY ATTACHES.

The galleries, of course, were speedily filled. Most of the foreign Ambassadors were present, and several of the Plenipotentiaries. All secretaries and attachés of embassies, to their great disgust, were shut out for want of room. Very irate were these gentlemen, and some of them threatened the direct penalties upon the officials for daring to deprive them of their "rights." They were, however, promptly, but courteously, told that rights they had none—Ambassadors only have rights. They refused, however, to budge, and had to be persuaded back by the police. Usually these gentlemen are admitted, on request duly made and permission granted, but on such an occasion as this to admit them is to exclude those who have rights—to wit, diplomats proper, peers, peers' eldest sons, and others. A testy, self-important race are these attachés of Ambassadors, far more so than the Ambassadors themselves.

SQUATTING MINISTERS.

It was a pretty picture from the gallery—the house thus filled in every part. One could not help feeling, though, that, owing to the smallness of the chamber, the scene was wanting in dignity. Mr. Speaker, as he sits at his ease, wigged and gowned, in his canopied and elaborately-carved chair, with the mace before him, looks grand enough; but the members are packed like herrings in a barrel; and so packed, and wedged, and obviously ill at ease, not even Cabinet Ministers can look dignified. Sir George Grey, now, if he had but room, would form an imposing figure in the picture; but sitting, and hardly sitting, on the very edge of the bench, he certainly does not strike us at all with that awe with which we ought to look upon a great Minister. Neither is the position of Sir Charles Wood, albeit he is the ruler of a mighty nation, a very dignified one. He has got into a seat, but it is clear that he cannot get out until his neighbours rise to liberate him. Milner Gibson seems to be sitting on somebody's knees. But what are we to say to those Under-Secretaries of State who are squatting in the gangway, with their knees up to their chins and their hands clasped round their knees? Indian chieftains at their palavers squat in this manner; but surely in no other European senatorial chamber are Ministers of the Crown obliged to sit in such primitive fashion. But there is no help for it. Above the bar no Minister must stand; and as all the benches were filled when these gentlemen came in, they were obliged to squat thus or go below the bar and stand.

LORD PALMERSTON.

At half-past four Lord Palmerston arrived. A burst of cheering greeted him as he emerged from behind the chair and took his seat. At a quarter to five he rose and proceeded to the bar; the House again cheering as he went. Arrived at the bar, Mr. Speaker called out, "Lord Palmerston." "Papers," said his Lordship. "Bring them up," replied the Speaker. Whereupon the noble Lord proceeded to the table, bowing as he went, and handed the papers to the clerk, Sir Denis Le Marchant, and, he having read the titles thereof, a dead silence fell upon the House, and the noble Lord began his speech. And now, readers, you have, we suppose, read the speech. If not, read it forthwith; and, whether you have read it or have the pleasure of reading it to come, please to remember this—that wonderfully-lucid and admirably-arranged history of the complex Schleswig-Holstein business, with the narrative of the proceedings of the Conference, occupied an hour and a quarter; that it was delivered in clear, sonorous tones, without break in its continuity, entirely from memory and with no aid from notes; and that the man who delivered it will be, if his life be spared, eighty years old next November!

THE VOTE OF CENSURE ON MINISTERS.—A meeting of the chiefs of the Conservative party was held on Tuesday at the Earl of Derby's house, when the terms of the motion to be submitted to the House of Commons by Mr. Disraeli, condemning the conduct of the Government, were arranged. Subsequently to the meeting at the Earl of Derby's house a strong gathering of Conservative members took place at the house of the Marquis of Salisbury. Lord Derby there, in a speech of considerable length, put forward the reasons which had induced him at this critical juncture to depart from the attitude of forbearance which had so long been maintained by the Conservative party.

HARVEST PROSPECTS IN IRELAND.—The progress made by the growing crops during the past four weeks has been unprecedentedly rapid. It is probable that the oldest farmer in Ulster does not recollect a more favourable season or one in which, in the last week of June, the aspect of the cultivated lands was, on the whole, so satisfactory. Early-planted potatoes, which had suffered severely by the frosts that came on them about the close of the past month have not only fully recovered that "check," but are now exhibiting a degree of luxuriance rarely seen at this period of the season. The wheat and oat lands are very flourishing; and, if the next month be favourable, there will be ample yield of grain as well as a great abundance of straw—this last being a matter of much more importance than is usually attached to it. Not only as fodder, but as the material for manure, a large turnout of straw ever proves a valuable addition to the products of the farmer. Upland grasses are likely to bulk much above the average, and late meadows look promising.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

Earl STANHOPE called attention to the present position of the Royal Academy, and inquired what was the intention of the Government with respect to the recommendations of the Commissioners.

Earl GRANVILLE said that the report of the Commissioners had been referred to the Royal Academy, which had, in reply, presented an address to her Majesty, who had left the question to the consideration of the Government. The House of Commons had rejected the proposal to leave the Academy in Trafalgar-square, with enlarged space, and to that decision the Government bowed. Nothing would be more unwise than for the Government to take upon itself the regulation of the fine arts; but without doing that it might usefully insist upon certain regulations calculated to popularise the Academy and make it more efficient for public purposes in return for the facilities which it received. Government had not had time to consider these details, and he could not give a pledge as to any particular course they might take.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE MALT TAX.

Mr. MORRITT moved that, "in any future modification of the indirect taxation of this country, the excise on malt requires consideration." He contended that the malt tax had strong claims to be repealed. It was a tax drawn from the English producers, and levied on an article which they consumed. It fell heavily on the poor man who consumed beer, and lightly on the rich man who drank wine. It pressed with undue severity on the agriculturists, and altogether was a most obnoxious tax.

Mr. DODSON seconded the motion. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed the motion, on the ground that it was most unwise to pledge the House as to the precise manner of disposing of a possible surplus. The inclination of the House was to divide surpluses between direct and indirect taxation; but this motion would destroy the balance. He did not deny that the malt duty was entitled to consideration, but he thought no good purpose would be served by discussing it now.

Lord J. MANNERS argued that the House ought to consider and decide upon the question. The reduction or repeal of the malt duty was absolutely necessary.

After a short discussion, in which Mr. P. Urquhart, Mr. Neate, and Mr. Newdegate took part, the motion was negatived by 166 votes to 118.

THE IRISH COURT OF CHANCERY BILL.

Mr. O'HAGAN moved that the House go into Committee on the Court of Chancery Bill.

An attempt was made to count out the House but it failed.

Mr. LONGFIELD moved that the bill be referred to a Select Committee.

Another fruitless attempt was made to count out the House.

After a long discussion the motion for going into Committee was carried by 41 votes to 39.

A series of motions for the adjournment of the debate and of the House were put and negatived.

At last Lord PALMERSTON consented that the further proceeding with the bill should be adjourned to Monday next, when a day would be fixed for going on with the bill.

MONDAY, JUNE 27.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CONFERENCE.

Earl RUSSELL laid on the table the protocols relating to the Conference. In doing so he entered at great length into the circumstances which led to the convening of the Conference and the various proposals made there. Finally, he announced that the Government, seeing all their propositions had been rejected both by Denmark and the German Powers, were resolved not to take up arms for Denmark unless the integrity of the Danish islands proper were threatened.

The Earl of DERBY declined to enter at that time on any discussion in reference to the question raised. It was clear, however, that the policy of the Government must be most seriously considered, and they must prepare to defend themselves.

After a few words from Earl Granville and Lord Brougham the subject dropped.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE DANO-GERMAN QUESTION.

Lord PALMERSTON, having brought up the protocols of the Conference relative to the affairs of Denmark, traced the course of the negotiations preceding and in the Conference, and then announced the policy which her Majesty's Government had resolved to pursue. He said that in considering the position that England had to take up, it was necessary to look to the fact that Denmark had, in the first instance, been in the wrong; and had, in the last resort of the efforts which had been made for peace, rejected the propositions which had been made, equally with her adversaries. It was also necessary to consider the extent of the means which would be required to be brought to bear if England interfered in this quarrel. France and Russia entirely declined to participate in active proceedings, and the whole brunt of the effort to dislodge the German forces from Denmark would fall on England alone. Her Majesty's Government, therefore, did not think it their duty to recommend to the Sovereign and to Parliament that this country should undertake the large responsibility of entering into a contest with the whole of Germany. The contest was not one which touched on the question of the preservation of the Monarchy of Denmark or her independence as a European Power. He did not say that if these points became involved in the contest it would not be necessary to reconsider the position which ought to be taken up by this country. If such a change of policy were to take place it would be at once communicated to Parliament.

Mr. DISRAELI did not intend to go into any discussion then, but he thought it right that the House should have an opportunity of pronouncing upon the policy of the Government, from which he dissented strongly. He could not agree that the maintenance of the integrity of the Danish islands proper was alone necessary for the balance of power in Europe. He should take the earliest opportunity of enabling the House to express an opinion on the policy of the Government.

The motion that the papers relating to the Conference be laid on the table was then agreed to.

THE KING OF GREECE.

Mr. AYRTON moved that the grant to the King of Greece of an annuity of £4000 out of the Consolidated Fund by treaty not made subject to the sanction of Parliament is a violation of the privileges of the House of Commons.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed the motion, and declared that it was based on error.

The motion was then withdrawn.

NEW COURTS OF LAW.

Mr. M. SMITH called attention to the necessity for the erection of new courts of law. At present the accommodation was very deficient, and he had been in hopes that the Government would have introduced their promised bill for the provision of new courts before this time.

Mr. MALINS declared that the Government ought to bring in their bill at once, or else abandon the project altogether.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL expressed a hope that he should be able during this Session to introduce a bill to provide new courts.

After a few words from Mr. Selwyn, Mr. Cowper, and Lord Hotham, the matter dropped.

DEFENCES OF CANADA.

Mr. ADERLEY called attention to the defenceless state of Canada. Mr. CARDWELL said the matter had been under the consideration of the Government, and the attention of the colonial Legislature had been called to it.

After a few words from Lord B. Cecil and Mr. C. Fortescue the matter dropped.

SUPPLY.—CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.

The House went into Committee of Supply, and was engaged for some time in discussion of the Civil Service Estimates.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

BRAZIL AND THE SLAVE TRADE.

Lord BROUGHAM called attention to the slave trade. He was glad to state that the trade, so far as Brazil was concerned, had ceased. He reviewed the causes which had led to this happy result, and suggested that now the Aberdeen Act might be repealed. He regretted that Spain still encouraged the slave trade.

Earl RUSSELL did not think the slave trade with Brazil had wholly ceased, nor did he think this a fit time to repeal the Aberdeen Act. He was in hopes that the pressure of public opinion would put an end to the trade in Cuba.

After a few words from Lord Houghton and Earl Fortescue, the matter dropped.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CENSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT POLICY.

Mr. DISRAELI said that on Monday next he should move an address to the Crown, "to thank her Majesty for directing the correspondence on Denmark and Germany, and the protocols of the Conference recently held in London, to be laid before Parliament;" to assure her Majesty that we have heard with deep concern that the sittings of that Conference have been brought to a close without accomplishing the important purpose for which it was convened; to express to her Majesty our great regret that, while the course pursued by her Majesty's Government has failed to maintain their avowed policy of upholding the integrity and independence of Denmark, it

has lowered the just influence of this country in the councils of Europe, and thereby diminished the securities for peace.

Mr. KINGLAKE gave notice that he should move an amendment to this resolution, of the terms of which he would give notice the next day.

OPEN SPACES NEAR THE METROPOLIS.

Mr. DOULTON called attention to the gradual diminution of open spaces in and around London, and moved that it was the duty of Government to provide for the preservation of such spaces within the limits stated in the 14th section of the Enclosure Act of 1845.

The motion was opposed by Mr. Peel and Mr. Cowper, and supported by Mr. Locke, Sir W. Fraser, and Mr. Torrens; and, on a division, was carried against the Government by 79 to 40.

THE BREED OF HORSES.

Mr. P. WYNDHAM moved "that as the annual grant of money voted by this House for Queen's Plates no longer encourages the breed of good horses—the object for which it was originally given—it should for the future be discontinued." He contended that the breed of horses had deteriorated, and that this was mainly owing to the handicap system and to the running of horses at very early ages.

After some discussion, in which Mr. Newdegate, General Peel, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Foljambe, and Lord Palmerston took place, the motion was withdrawn.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. THE VOTE OF CENSURE.

Mr. KINGLAKE gave notice that, in lieu of the last paragraph of the address proposed by Mr. Disraeli, he would move to substitute, by way of amendment, the words following:—"To express the satisfaction with which we have learnt that at this juncture her Majesty has been advised to abstain from armed interference in the war now going on between Denmark and the German Powers."

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (IRELAND) BILL.

Mr. HENNESSY moved the second reading of the Poor Law (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill. The object of the bill was, he said, to assimilate the law in England and Ireland as regarded outdoor relief.

Lord NAAS moved the rejection of the bill. Its principle had been condemned by the Select Committee which sat upon the subject.

After a short discussion, the second reading of the bill was negatived by 201 votes to 24.

TESTS ABOLITION (OXFORD) BILL.

This bill passed through Committee without opposition, but Mr. Selwyn gave notice that on the motion for the third reading of the bill its rejection would be moved.

STREET MUSIC.

The House then went into Committee on the Street Music Bill, and a very amusing discussion ensued, which lasted until a quarter to six o'clock, when, in accordance with the standing orders, the debate was adjourned.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

ABOLITION OF TOLL-GATES.

Lord RAYNESWORTH said a great social reform had taken effect that day—viz., the abolition of toll-gates in certain districts of the metropolis. He begged to thank her Majesty's Government for having carried out the recommendations of the Royal Commission, and concluded by asking what steps had been taken for giving to other suburban districts of the metropolis the same freedom that had been conferred on the north-western.

Earl GRANVILLE said he would make inquiries in the proper quarter, and communicate the result of his inquiries to the noble Earl.

AGRARIAN OUTRAGES IN IRELAND.

The Earl of DONOUGHMORE moved the following resolution:—"That, considering the extent to which agrarian outrages prevail in certain counties in Ireland, and the difficulty which exists in obtaining convictions for offences of this description, this House is of opinion that the power of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to remit the whole or a portion of the punishment of persons convicted of such crimes should be exercised with greater care and circumspection, and this House observes with regret that the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland ordered the release of Michael Duigan, Patrick Duigan, and Patrick Egan, prisoners under sentence for an agrarian offence confined in the county gaol of Westmeath, upon grounds which appear to be insufficient."

Earl GRANVILLE defended the Lord Lieutenant from the charge. After a few words from the Marquis of Westmeath, the Earl of Leitrim, and Lord Chelmsford, the motion was withdrawn.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NAVAL ARCHITECTURE.

Mr. A. SMITH rose to move that the New School of Naval Architecture ought to be established in immediate connection with one of the chief naval arsenals, where the students may have, together with scientific lectures of a high order, the benefit of regular, progressive, and continuous instruction in every branch of practical ship-building, as well as constant opportunities of inspecting and studying steam and other machinery, the varied armaments, and numerous operations carried out in the docking, fitting out, and working of every species of vessel embraced by the Royal Navy; and, further, that the South Kensington establishments and museums are altogether wanting in the educational staff and means of practical application indispensable for such school. The hon. gentleman entered into a lengthened statement of facts in support of his motion.

Sir J. PAKINGTON explained what he had done in connection with this subject while he was at the Admiralty.

ENDOWED SCHOOLS.

Sir J. PAKINGTON moved the following resolution:—"That, in the opinion of this House, the mode in which it is proposed by the minute of the 11th of March, 1864, to make grants to endowed schools, and the distinction made by the same minute between endowed schools in the country and in towns, are unsatisfactory and unjust."

The SPEAKER ruled that the resolution was substantially the same as that which had been moved by Mr. Adderley, and already negatived by the House this Session.

Sir J. PAKINGTON said he at once bowed to this opinion, but he wished to intimate to the Government that they must not consider the question to be finally disposed of.

EDUCATION VOTE.

The House then went into Committee of Supply.

Mr. BRUCE moved the vote to be placed at the disposal of the Committee of the Privy Council for Education. He gave a very favourable report of the operation of the revised code, and some interesting details with respect to the character and nature of the examinations. The result was, that out of 828 schools, from which 180,000 pupils were presented for examination, the failures were 17 per cent. After a lengthened discussion the vote was agreed to.

The next vote, £37,800 for Science and Art, was also assented to.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

NORTH DURHAM.—The election of a representative for the northern division of the county of Durham, in the place of the late Lord Adolphus Vane-Tempest, took place at Durham on Tuesday, when Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., of Whitburn Hall, was returned without opposition. The new member is a Liberal in politics and a gentleman of considerable local influence.

KING'S LYNN.—Mr. J. H. Gurney announces the resignation of his seat for King's Lynn, on account of failing health. Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton is in the field in the interest of the Liberals.

EAST GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—The Hon. Edward Dutton, eldest son of Lord Sherborne, is about to offer himself as a candidate on Conservative principles for the vacancy in the representation of East Gloucestershire, caused by the death of the late Sir William Codrington.

WHITBY.—The *Whitby Gazette* announces that Mr. George Hudson, the ex-railway king, will shortly make his appearance in that town, and that it is his intention to become a candidate at the next borough election.

THE FUNERAL OF MR. WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN took place at Cahirmoyle, near Limerick, on Thursday week. The arrival of the body at Dublin was the occasion of a great demonstration in that city. The public manifestation of regret for the death of Mr. O'Brien was renewed at Limerick.

THE EMPERORS OF RUSSIA AND AUSTRIA and the King of Prussia have, it is asserted, come to the following agreement on the subject of Holstein and Schleswig—namely, that Russia shall give up her claims to the Duke to be appointed, said Duke to be whichever of the two claimants—Frederick of Angustenburg and Peter of Oldenburg—as shall be most compliant; that the Duke shall then yield his rights to Prussia; Russia to furnish an army if necessary; and both Prussia and Russia to aid Austria in Poland, Hungary, or Venetia when required.

AN ITALIAN ALPINE CLUB.—An important association, under the name of the Alpine Club, has recently been established in Turin, having for its chief object the scientific exploration of those vast fields of ice, perpetual snow, and abysses of nameless lakes which are comprised in the Italian Alps—a region by no means inferior in scientific interest, as well as natural beauty, to those of Savoy, Switzerland, or the Tyrol. Italians have frequently been accused of leaving to foreigners the task of developing the resources and illustrating the beauties wherewith Nature has so richly endowed their country; but Italy has lately afforded many proofs of having been awarded to national life. Not the least significant of these is the formation of the Alpine Club of Turin, which includes among its members men from every grade of society who are distinguished by their literary and scientific attainments, or their political ability and importance.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1864.

THE FREEDOM OF THE HIGHWAY.

THURSDAY last, the 30th of June, was a day to be remembered by future historians of the metropolis. The first stroke of the midnight chimes announcing the termination of that day proclaimed also the end of a great metropolitan nuisance. From that moment forth, no tolls were to be taken on the north side of the Thames for five miles round London.

The matter may appear a small one to London travellers who only ride in omnibuses or on railways, and to others who seldom, if ever, ride at all. But, really, it is a matter of great social importance, involving not only much individual annoyance but even a grave matter of political economy. Even young men may remember the "Rebecca" riots in Wales, which occasioned the transportation, as felons, of many honest, loyal Welshmen, goaded to insurrection by the obnoxious nuisance of turnpike-gates. It is not the mere payment which is objectionable by the gate system, but the stoppage, the unbuttoning of vestments, the searching for coin, the delay for change, and the compulsory preservation of turnpike-tickets, which render offensive the payment of toll, by way of payment for road-making.

The results are still appreciable by the most ordinary observer, who may remark the comparative isolation of the Surrey side of the metropolis. The south of the Thames contains a population, and exhibits a kind of traffic, and even a style of dwelling-houses and business, distinct from those of the northern shore. The denizens of Lambeth and Southwark cross to London and Westminster to transact business, just as villagers in the country travel constantly to the towns for the like object, while, on the other hand, the townspeople seldom go to the villages. The toll-gates upon the bridges constitute a barrier and a division, of which the results are appreciable, not only commercially, but socially; not only in trades and professions, but even in the manners, habits, and status of the inhabitants. House property is less valuable on the Surrey than on the Middlesex side. Take an equal area of say, for instance, a dozen acres on each side of the river, and the statistician will find that on the Surrey shore the buildings will be, at most, only one fourth in value of those upon the same superficies upon the other, though the distance between them may be but a few hundred yards more than the breadth of the river. The cause of this deterioration, or rather, the want of progressive increase in value, is to be found in the lack of free communication.

The system of free roads—in other words, the community of public thoroughfares—has, it may be confessed, met with much opposition. There are yet numerous persons possessed of local influence and authority who object to the abolition of the toll-gates. Their cry is, "Let those who use the roads pay for them." Such persons do not consider that, by the simplest rudiments of political economy, a mulct upon any class of honest, industrious citizens is a mulct upon the community. Grant that roads must be made, repaired, and paid for. By the toll system, the community has not only to bear the expense of the roads, but of the maintenance of toll-collectors into the bargain. It needs but the simplest arithmetic to tell that a hundred toll payers, at threepence each, must be found to pay the turnpikeman's wages of 25s. per week before a single penny can go to the pockets of the road trustees. And yet on our metropolitan roads there are not only usually two or more men to each gate, but a dozen or so of gates and side-bars to every "trust."

We have but small wish to indulge in what Mr. Disraeli once designated "a wild shriek of liberty" upon the abolition of a few toll-bars. Pecuniarily, this may affect but few, in comparison with the many who will rejoice at the discontinuance of long-established nuisances. But, as a matter of social and commercial progress, the removal of the north metropolitan turnpikes at the last moment of the month just past, is of sufficient importance to demand remark and commemoration.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The first great rose show for the season under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society was held in the gardens at Kensington on Wednesday, and was of more than ordinary excellence, both as regards the number of stands and the quality of the blooms. This result is due as much to the fact that the present season has been peculiarly favourable for roses as to the fame of the Horticultural Society. The day, though somewhat dull and oppressive, was fine, and the delicious perfume which filled the arcades was a feature indeed. In the nurserymen's classes for cut blooms there was a rich display; and Messrs. Paul and Son, of Cheshunt, Mr. Charles Turner, of Slough, and Mr. Keynes, of Salisbury, carried off the first prizes. Amongst the amateurs, Mr. J. F. Hedge, of Reed Hall, Colchester, and the Rev. J. Knox Child, of Little Easton, Essex, took the principal awards; the former gentleman having, it is said, grown as many as 2000 roses this season. Mr. Keynes took the first prize for new roses of 1863-4, as well as for the new kinds of 1863; and Messrs. Paul and Son, of Cheshunt, brought up the best of the lovely tea-scented and Noisette roses in the nurserymen's class; and Mr. Hedge in the class for amateurs. Mr. B. R. Cant, of St. John's Nurseries, Colchester, took the special prize given by the hon. secretary for the same varieties. Prizes were also awarded for specimens of bouquets and decorations in roses. Although the prizes offered were for roses, the show was not entirely limited to this particular flower; many of the competitors brought up other splendid specimens of pelargoniums and some rare and curious plants. Amongst these a collection of the beautiful *Lilium auratum* received and deserved great attention, and gained an extra prize for Messrs. Veitch. But a principal object of interest was a ripe cocoon, exhibited by Mr. Fairbairn, gardener to the Duke of Northumberland, at St. John House, where the fruit was grown and ripened, being the first brought to perfection in England. It received a first-class certificate from the society.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

A GRAND STATE BALL was given at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday night, by the Prince and Princess of Wales, in the name and on behalf of her Majesty. The invitations were on an extended scale; in fact, the list included all the rank and fashion now assembled in the metropolis.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, the Captain-General of the Hon. Artillery Company, inspected that corps on Wednesday on its parade-ground in Finsbury. The Princess of Wales accompanied his Royal Highness, and presented to the regiment the new colours given by Mrs. Robinson, the wife of Major Robinson. The whole affair went off most successfully.

PRINCE ARTHUR has left for Brussels and Germany. He has taken with him a small skiff, fitted with air-tight cases, with which he intends amusing himself on the Rhine.

THE KING OF THE GREEKS has returned to Athens from the Ionian Islands, where he experienced a most enthusiastic reception.

THREE NEW BISHOPS were consecrated at Canterbury on Wednesday. They were Dr. Francis Jeune, to the bishopric of Peterborough; Dr. C. F. Bromby, to the bishopric of Tasmania; and Dr. Samuel A. Crowther, to the bishopric of the Niger. The last named is a coloured clergyman.

MR. TENNYSON's new volume of poems, "Idylls of the Hearth," is to appear in the middle of the present month.

MR. T. L. RUSHTON, of Bolton, has offered £10,000 towards the reconstruction of the parish church of that town.

THE UPPER HOUSE OF CONVOCATION has resolved to "synodically condemn" "Essays and Reviews." The Bishops of London, Lincoln, and Bangor dissented.

THE POSTAGE on letters to Australia by mail-steamer will be 1s., and by private ship 4d., after the 1st instant.

THE DANISH GOVERNMENT has re-established the blockade of the Prussian ports in the Baltic, as well as of the ports and inlets in the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein.

THE HERBOMADAL COUNCIL at OXFORD intend, it is stated, to propose the endowment of Professor Jowett's chair early next term; and no doubt is entertained that the proposal will be carried.

ANOTHER VICTORY OVER THE MEXICANS, by General Donai, on the 18th of May, at Nochistlan, is announced.

THE DUKE OF AUGUSTENBURG has been delivering a speech at a banquet at Heide, in which he congratulates himself on his newly-acquired dignity of Prince of Schleswig-Holstein—a fact which he seems to consider as accomplished.

THE CIRCASSIAN EXODUS has had, among other ghastly accompaniments, that of a great revival of the slave trade in girls and boys at Trebizond, Samsoun, and other places.

LORD BEAUCHAMP has for some weeks past been suffering from a pulmonary affection, the severity of which gave considerable uneasiness to his friends. His health, however, has very much improved in the last few days.

SINCE GRANT'S FLANKING MOVEMENTS, "flanking" is the term used by the Federal soldiers to describe almost everything. A brave fellow the other day told a correspondent that he saw a shell coming, but "hadn't time to flank it." The shell had flanked him, and taken off one of his arms.

CAPTAIN GALLWAY, R.E., and CAPTAIN ALDERSON, R.N., who were dispatched as British Commissioners to the Federal army, have returned home, the Federal Secretary of War having declined to allow them to visit headquarters.

A SMALL PICTURE, not larger than a plate, said to be painted by Raphael when only twelve years of age, was sold on Monday at the Hotel Drouet. It represents Charles VIII. of France, and was knocked down to Baron de Rothschild for 2700*fr.*

A NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENT was recently sentenced by General Meade to be paraded through his camp in Virginia with a placard marked "Libeller of the Press," and be then put without the lines and not permitted to return.

A LITTLE GIRL AT SHEFFIELD has been most seriously injured by the carelessness of a man who was carrying a scythe through the streets. Whilst the child was playing the man passed her, and in doing so the point of his scythe inflicted a frightful gash on her face.

A TERRIBLE FIRE has destroyed all the wooden buildings which had been constructed for the great fair at Nijni Novgorod.

THE ROMISH CONGREGATION OF THE INDEX has condemned thirteen works, among which are "Les Misérables" by Victor Hugo, and some romances of De Balzac and Soulié.

GARRICK'S VILLA AT HAMPTON was sold by auction last week, at a fancy price. The seller dwelt, of course, on the many pleasant historical associations of the place, including the visits of Hannah More. The lot was knocked down at £10,800 to Mr. Grove, tailor, of Battle Bridge notoriety.

THE NEW SOVEREIGN OF WIRTEMBERG, King Charles, has issued a proclamation to his people declaring that he will faithfully maintain the Constitution.

MR. HALL, who has been for many years the chief magistrate of Bow-street, has retired. Mr. Henry succeeds to the chief magistracy, and Mr. Flower, the Recorder of Stamford, is to take his seat as one of the stipendiary magistrates at Bow-street.

THE TOTAL FORCE OF THE PRUSSIAN TROOPS now in Jutland and the duchies amounts to fifty-four battalions of Infantry of the Guard and of the Line, two battalions of Chasseurs, two of Pioneers, fourteen field batteries, seven siege batteries, three companies of hospital attendants, and seven cavalry regiments, forming an effective of twenty-nine squadrons—in all 60,000 men at least.

MRS. BECKETT, thirty years of age, residing in the Borough, was on Tuesday, burnt to death in her own house in consequence of her dress catching fire. She was alone at the time, and it is conjectured that she had placed a candle on the floor while engaged in some household duties, and set herself on fire by incautiously approaching it. When discovered by her neighbours she was enveloped in flames from head to foot.

THE PEOPLE OF NAPLES have given warm expression to their admiration of Garibaldi since his arrival at Iechia. Numerous deputations have waited upon him, and demonstrations in his honour have taken place in the city. The Government, however, have shown a disposition to repress this expression of feeling, and have thereby caused considerable dissatisfaction.

THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT has given biscuits to the value of £5000 to the Circassians, and offered to the Porte to facilitate a special loan for the purchase of objects to be distributed among them. Immense suffering and mortality continue among the immigrants.

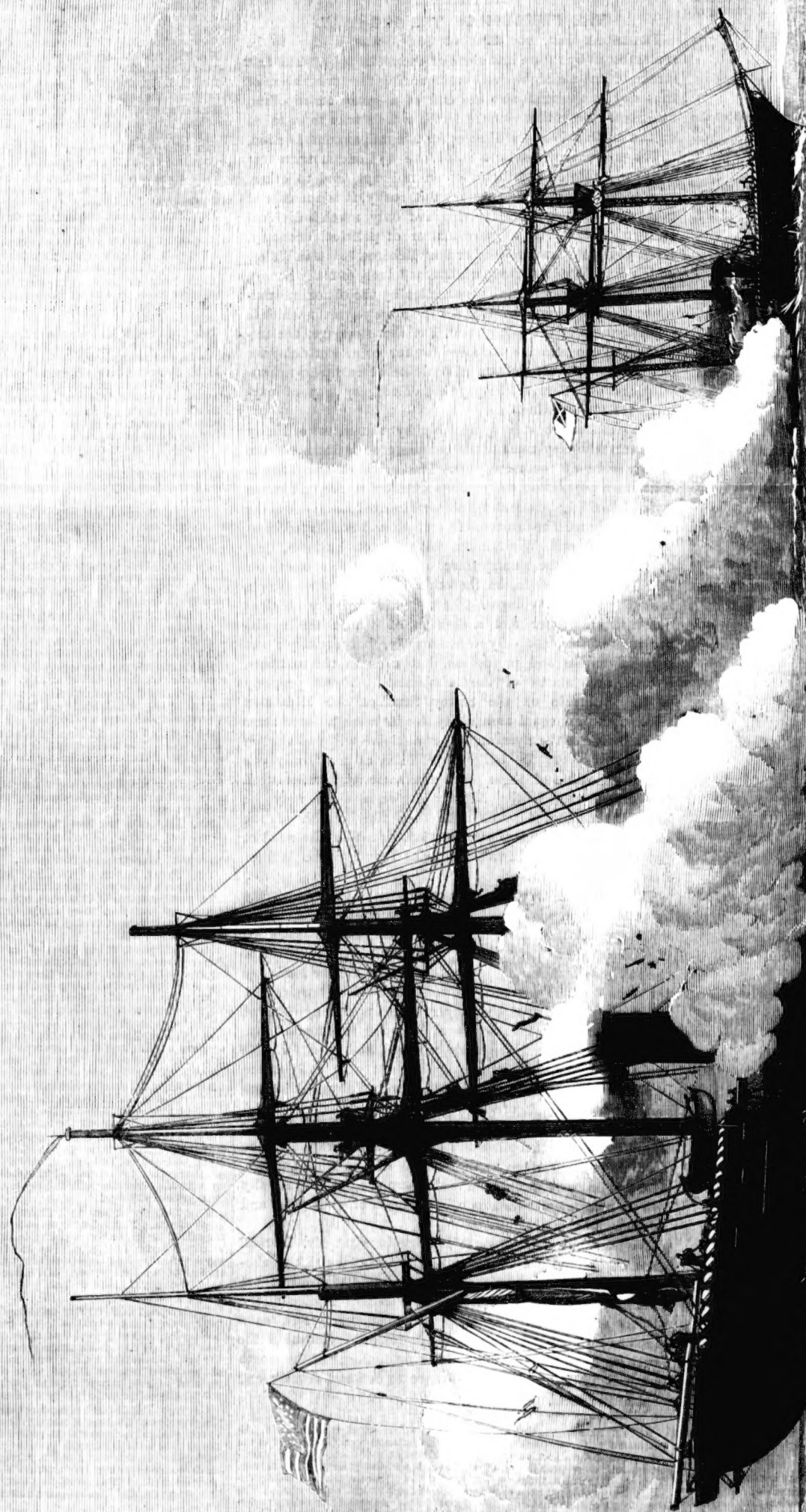
EXPERIMENTS with a new description of ironclad have recently been made at Toulon. This novelty in war appliance is so constructed as to move rapidly both on land and water. Henceforth the shore is to form no barrier to the progress of maritime vehicles, and the serious impediments to landing on a hostile shore must, it is presumed, be obviated by the use of these terraqueous carriages!

THE TRIAL-TRIP OF THE ROYAL SOVEREIGN seems to have been great success. This splendid vessel is an armour-bearing iron ship, built by Captain Coles on the turret principle, of 4000 tons measurement, 250 ft. long and 63 ft. broad amidships. She has four turrets, mounts five 300-pounder guns (throwing 150 lb. spherical shot with a charge of 40 lb. of powder), and engines of 800-horse power. She can steam with full power eleven knots an hour and eight knots at half power, and may be made ready for sea in twenty-four hours.

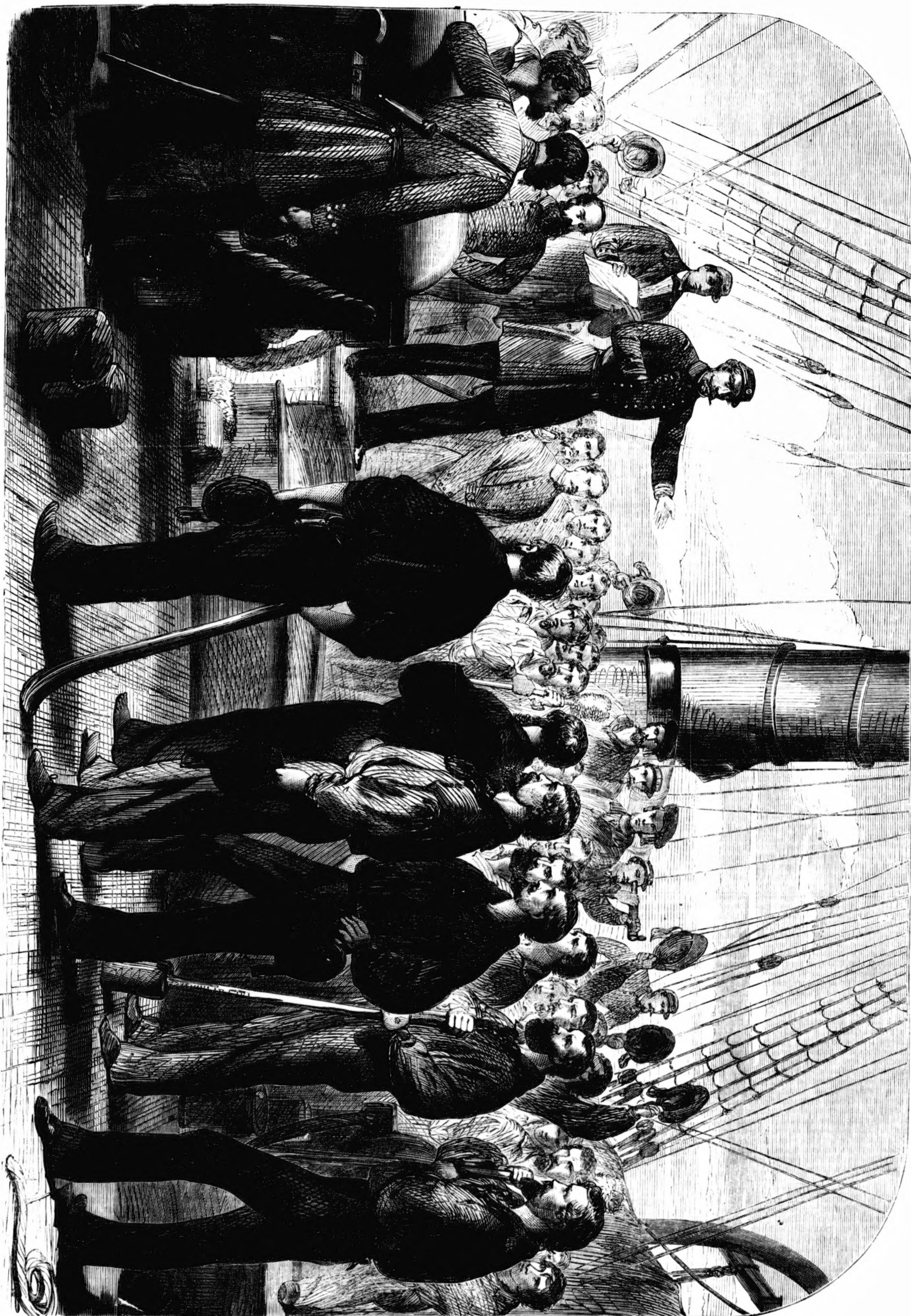
THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON MR. BEWICK'S CASE have reported that "Mr. Bewicke is not entitled to any compensation out of the public purse," because he has not proved that there was any miscarriage of justice in his case "through the default of the persons charged with the administration of the law." Nevertheless, it recommends "for the favourable consideration of the Crown" whether the full value of the forfeited property should not be restored to him, minus the net produce of the sale by auction already voluntarily paid over to him by the Commissioners.

CAPTAIN PALLISER has produced strong and exceedingly cheap shot by simple process. Instead of casting the shot in sand and allowing the surface to cool gradually, the metal is poured into a cold iron mould, so as to cool the surface with the utmost possible rapidity long before the interior has hardened. In this way a ball is turned out which, to judge from recent trials, combines almost the hardness of steel with the destructive effects of a segment shell. Hitherto cast-iron shot have smashed against the plates; but this penetrates and breaks into numerous pieces, after passing through the obstacle.

A DROWNING MATCH.—S. Ashley and J. Chambers, two boatmen, were charged at the Wolverhampton Police Court with being drunk and disorderly. Police Constable Cooper said he saw the two men at a branch of the canal near the Dog and Partridge public-house, Old Wednesfield, apparently endeavouring to drown one another. At the time he arrived at the spot both men were in the water, trying which could hold the other's head longest under the surface; and, in spite of his interference, as fast as they got out on to the bank, each dragged the other back into the canal, both of them being encouraged in what they were doing by the cheers and shouting of a number of men and lads. At length one of them was thrown with great violence to the bottom of a canal boat that was lying alongside. He received a severe wound on his left eyebrow, and was also rendered insensible. The other man was likewise completely exhausted. Cooper at once procured a conveyance, and brought them to the police station at Wolverhampton. Restoratives were administered to them, and their wet clothes having been taken off, they were both wrapped up in blankets and placed before a fire, but in one case it was some time before consciousness was restored. The defendants denied that they were fighting; they said they were only wrestling. They said they were sorry for their foolish conduct, and they were set at liberty on payment of 10*s.* each to defray the expense of the surgeon and the cart.



THE ACTION BETWEEN THE ALABAMA AND THE MERRIMACK.



CAPTAIN SEMMES ADDRESSING THE CREW OF THE ALABAMA PREVIOUS TO GOING INTO ACTION.—(FROM A SKETCH FURNISHED BY AN OFFICER OF THE ALABAMA.)

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE great fight for the Government, for such it will be, neither more nor less, will begin on Monday night. It will certainly be adjourned to Tuesday, probably over to Thursday, and may not be finished till Friday night, or rather early on Saturday morning. Mr. Disraeli will open by moving the address to the Crown agreed on at a meeting of the Conservative party, and to this Mr. Kingslake moves an amendment. This amendment the Government, I understand, will accept and support. Mr. Disraeli's motion is cunningly devised, but it is not quite satisfactory to some of his own friends, in that it expresses no gratification that war has been avoided. It will be a severe struggle, no doubt; but it is confidently expected by the Government that the amendment will be carried by at least twenty-five majority. I do not think that the most sanguine of the Opposition expect to win.

The report of the proceedings at the meeting of Conservative members at Lord Salisbury's, which has been sent round to the papers, tells us that 231 members were present. Two hundred and thirty-one will not win the battle. When the vote of want of confidence in the Derby Government was moved by Lord Hartington in 1859, the Liberals polled 323; the "Noes," 310; adding four tellers, 637. I do not expect that so large a number will vote next week. But unless the Conservatives can bring up nearly 300 they certainly will not win. But were there 231 members present at Lord Salisbury's? I doubt it. One gentleman whose name figures in the list certainly was not present—to wit, Sir William Jolliffe. Sir William will, in all probability, vote with his party; but he was not at the meeting; and I suspect that the list contains the names of other men who were absent. But all who were there may not vote with Disraeli. That member for a northern county—name not given—who objected to the movement will, I suspect, be absent. Why was not this gentleman named? A member for a northern county must have been known. Was it the honourable Mr. Liddell, the member for South Northumberland? He was present, and makes no secret of his dislike to this movement.

The Conservatives have lost a vote by the death of Sir William Codrington, the member for East Gloucestershire. The Whigs have gained one (two on a division) by the death of Lord Adolphus Vane-Tempest, and the return of Sir Hedworth Williamson, a Liberal, in his stead. This gentleman will, of course, take his seat in time to vote. The successor of Sir William Codrington will not get returned in time for the division. There are several members too ill to appear. Mr. Spooner, Mr. Beale, and Mr. Blackburn occur to me; but these will get pairs, no doubt. The Radicals, I am told, will this time vote with the Government to a man. The Irish, I suspect, will vote with their respective parties, much as usual. Some of the Conservatives will vote against their party. I think I could enumerate five or six, but it would be unfair to mention their names. Several Conservatives, it is known, will absent themselves. It is difficult to foretell with anything like certainty the numbers; but I will venture upon a prophecy that about 600 will vote, and that the Government majority will be about twenty. If less than 600 poll, the absentees will prove more numerous than I anticipate, and in that case the Government majority will be larger.

On Friday in last week the town was startled by the appearance in the *Morning Star* of a report of the proceedings of the Conference at its last sitting, except the sitting of Saturday, which was merely a formality. This report was generally thought to be a fabrication at first. It came, however, to be known on Monday night that it was a true report. How the *Star* got it, though, is still a mystery; no other paper had it. The *Star*, too, foreshadowed on Monday morning the policy which Lord Palmerston was to announce at night. This, though, the *Times* also did. There is, however, no mystery here, for on Friday night it was generally known in the house that the Cabinet had unanimously resolved not to go to war. The wonder is that many of the weekly papers—the *Spectator* for example—should not have been better informed. The *Spectator* stated, in a trumpet-toned article, "that we were about to draw the sword," and exhorted the Government to go in at once for a great war, to be "prepared with soldiers as well as ships." Oh, blind *Spectator*! whilst you were thus fulminating it was settled that we were to have no war at all, and this you might have known if you had stepped down to the Reform Club or the House of Commons.

Have any of your readers received the last literary production from Scotland-yard? It is entitled "Number of Persons taken into Custody by the Metropolitan Police, and the Results, in the year 1863; with Comparative Statements, from the year 1831 to 1863 inclusive." Looking through its forty-seven closely printed and carefully-tabulated pages, I find much matter for very serious reflection; although they consist chiefly of a list of the offences committed, the number of persons arrested for each offence, the number acquitted and convicted, including those against whom prosecutions were abandoned, and the various punishments awarded. Added to these particulars is a table showing the degree of instruction attained by the prisoners, male and female, of various ages. Looking under the first letter of the alphabet to discover what trades or professions were followed by prisoners taken into custody last year, I find only two mentioned, "artists" and "artificial flower makers," and on passing my finger down the column I am led to hope that in police phraseology the word "artist" must have a very wide significance, since I find that of fifty-three prisoners under this description, twelve were taken into custody for common assaults, one for an assault on the police, one for burglary, eleven for breaking into a dwelling-house and stealing, three for larceny, one for unlawful possession of goods, three for wilful damage to property, two for uttering, or passing, bad money, three for being disorderly characters, ten for being both drunk and disorderly, fourteen for being drunk (I suppose without disorder), two as suspicious characters, and one as a vagrant. Surely the last must have been one of the talented delineators of mackerel and willow-pattern plates who was in course of removal to a new pitch where he had discovered some eligible flagstones.

I hear that great preparations are being made for the annual fancy fair at the Crystal Palace for the benefit of the Royal Dramatic College, which is to be held on the 16th and the 18th of this month. Mdlle. Stella Colas is to preside at a stall, or to do something besides break hearts, her constant custom of an evening. Clarke—little Jack Clarke, as he is usually called by his very numerous friends, the public—is to be the *proper-rioter* of a cat and dog show. Those dramatic gemini, Toole and Paul Bedford, are to exhibit waxwork; and several new and curious monsters—perhaps a modest tragedian or an unselfish manager—are to be added to the Wombwellian menagerie. Even foreign countries are to be ransacked for novelties. Mr. Howard Paul is at this moment in Paris, superintending the manufacture of a remarkable variety of stall, or *boutique*, which is to resemble a huge fan. In this airy edifice Mrs. Howard is to sell fans, I presume, at fancy prices. I do not intend a pun. By-the-way, the Royal Dramatic College must be growing very rich; for the public have been highly pleased by the evident desire of actors to provide not only for themselves but for their poorer brethren. Charity is a good thing, but self-help is a better.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

At the PRINCESS'S THEATRE, on Saturday last, your Lounger found himself in very grand society. There was Philip II., King of Spain; the Emperor Charles V., and grandees of the land of song, romance, chivalry, cruelty, and oranges. Last, not least, there was Mdlle. Stella Colas, whom, although loyal to a degree, I would rather see than any amount of kings, inquisitors, corregidores, or muleteers.

The title of the new play is "The Monastery of St. Just." In the first act we find that a young man called Juan, the natural son of Charles V., by the order of his father and of his father's legitimate son, Philip II. of Spain, has been intrusted to the care of Don Quesada, an old counsellor. The desire of the Emperor and of the King is that Juan should be a priest, but Juan—the historical Don John of Austria—has military instincts and is over head and ears in love.

Philip II., under an assumed name, visits his half-brother, and promises him ecclesiastical preferment. Juan, who is in ignorance of his Royal birth, acknowledges his preference of a sword to a rosary; and at last the sullen and bigotted Philip, on condition that he approves of the lady loved by Juan, consents to his marriage, and to his choice of a career. The last scene of the act introduces Donna Florinda de Sandoval, the lady loved by Juan, the secret of whose life is that she is a Jewess, and that her appearance of devotion to the Catholic faith is but an assumption to evade the persecution to which the "ancient race" is subjected throughout Spain. Juan loves too unwisely and too well to allow so slight an obstacle as mere difference of faith to come between him and the altar. The King, still under an assumed name, appears, and sees in Donna Florinda the lady whom he has regarded with that mixture of passion and egotism and a cruel and superstitious man such as Philip II. would mistake for love. Here, then, is the dead lock. The two half brothers love the same lady, and the object of the Most High and Catholic King's meditations, though he knows it not, is a daughter of Israel. Juan is separated from his intended bride and ordered to commence his novitiate.

The second act takes place in the Monastery of St. Just. There we find the great Emperor Charles V., his pomp and power gone, under the name and in the garb of a humble brother of the order. The ex-Emperor finds that aching hearts and limbs are hidden under other than Imperial robes. In the new novice, Juan, Charles recognises his illegitimate son, takes part with him against his Royal brother, and, with the aid of an impudent lad named Pebo, assists him to escape from the monastery. In the third act, Florinda, whose faith has been discovered by Philip's private secretary, has been subjected to an examination by the Inquisition. On reaching her home she is relieved from the horrors she has witnessed by the information that her beloved Juan is in the house. This relief is immediately followed by the moral torture of an interview with the cruel Philip, who vows his love with all the ardour of a bigot and the cruelty of a fanatic. The trembling girl, terrified by his importunities, shrieks out "I am a Jewess!" The moral victory is to her, the material vengeance to the King, whom Juan confronts and challenges to combat. At this moment the Emperor arrives and informs his son that Donna Florinda is of ancient Spanish family, and was only brought up and educated by a Jew, and that, though she be of the ancient faith, no drop of the blood of the Patriarch flows in her veins; and thus confusion is brought upon the selfish despot and happiness to virtuous love.

Donna Florinda is one of the characters that has been acted by Mdlle. Stella Colas at that abode of the dramatically blessed—the Théâtre Français. In the English version of M. Casimir Delavigne's famous play she displays the same singular union of graceful coquetry and of tragic terror—of girlish pleasure and of deep emotion—that so startled playgoers last year when she appeared as Juliet. Her last act is her finest, for there she rises to the true trumpet tone of tragedy, and declaims with an energy and truth that compels her hearers to forget her foreign intonation; and, apropos of this, her pronunciation has much improved. The part of the young novice Pebo in the second act gives her an opportunity of displaying versatility and vivacity; but why on earth she plays it must ever remain a mystery to the oldest and most easily pleased playgoer. Three fourths of the audience supposed—and not unnaturally—that the character was Donna Florinda in disguise. Mr. George Vining is to be congratulated on his very masterly performance of the cold-blooded, superstitious Philip; and I regret that I cannot pay the same compliment to Mr. George Nelson for his rendering of the gay-spirited Juan of Austria. It lacked passion, fire, energy, and ardour; in fact, he was as overweighted as would have been little Pebo with Francis the First's sword. Mr. Henry Marston played the self-deposed Emperor admirably, with exactly the proper admixture of scholarly humour and imperial dignity. Equally excellent, in a different way, was Mr. Ray's Don Quesada, which had on it a fine pedantic crust, the evident accumulation of years of conscientious artistic study. The adapter of the play is Mr. John Oxenford, who has done his work excellently. The playbill says openly, as it should do, that the play is "adapted from the French of Casimir Delavigne, author of 'Louis XI.'" Mr. Oxenford has not resorted to the meanness of calling it a new play, leaving the public to infer that it is original. Let me recommend similar candour to those gentlemen who, finding handkerchiefs ready made, carefully pick out the owner's name from the fabric and flourish it as their own.

An original and romantic drama—I believe a maiden effort—was produced at the VICTORIA on Monday. "Troubled Waters; or, The Family Secret," the work of Mr. Hamilton Hume, has a strange weird plot, and is full of those startling and effective situations so much admired by spontaneous audiences. A portion of the action of the drama is laid in South Carolina, in the present day, which has afforded an opportunity for some exciting tableaux apropos of the war now raging between the Northern and Southern States of America. The sympathy of both author and audience were evidently with the Confederates. The piece was entirely successful, and at the fall of the curtain Mr. Hamilton Hume bowed from the stage in acknowledgment of the loud clapping of hands of the usual patrons of the theatre as well as the gentle collision of kid gloves from the private boxes, which were tenanted by admirers of the drama who were evidently not habituated to what Mr. Arthur Skelchley's Mrs. Brown calls "her Majesty Queen Victoria's own theater."

TRADE OF THE COUNTRY.—The Board of Trade returns have been issued for May. The value of the exports in that month was £14,176,640 against £11,284,289 in May, 1863, and £11,298,587 in May, 1862. The aggregate for the first five months in the year is £64,069,060. In the corresponding period of 1863 the aggregate was £50,742,670, and in the like period of 1862 it was £47,545,238. These results are eminently satisfactory. The imports of bullion and specie in the five months amounted to £12,881,953; the exports to £11,450,160. This is also satisfactory.

DEATH FROM STARVATION.—A poor woman has died from starvation in Whitechapel. The family of which she was the head work very hard, but the scanty pittance they earned was insufficient to preserve health, or even life. Yet they appear to have made no complaint, and to have abstained from applying to the parish for relief. One of the daughters of the deceased said the family slept in their clothes, because they had no covering whatever at night, and they never had enough to eat. This case is, unhappily, only one of many of a similar kind which have taken place during the past few months.

NEW IRON-FIELD IN YORKSHIRE.—The pretty vale of the Derwent is threatened with a complete revolution, owing to the discovery of ironstone. The stone was found by accident about two years ago at Kirkham and at Castle Howard, about four miles from Malton, and was then partially wrought to ascertain its quality. The royalty has now been purchased, and the works on both sides the valley are to be prosecuted vigorously. It is said that a bridge over the Derwent is to be erected so as to reach the Malton Railway from the south side, and that blast furnaces are also to be built.

ROSE SHOW AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—On Saturday last the great annual rose show was held at the Crystal Palace, and clearly demonstrated, by the number and beauty of the specimens exhibited, the benefits arising from holding frequent shows of particular classes of flowers. The culture of the Queen of the garden appears now to have arrived at a pitch of perfection beyond which it would be difficult to go. In point of size and colour floriculturists seem to have produced every possible variety, unless, indeed, the long-sought blue rose should be discovered. The symmetry, too, of most of the examples shown on this occasion was most remarkable, and the profusion of bloom in most of the growing plants has never been equalled, or even approached, at former exhibitions of this flower. Each exhibitor showed a large variety of specimens, both of cut blossoms and growing plants, a fact to be accounted for by the present season having been a most favourable one for rose culture. The interest felt by the public in the successful cultivation of the rose may be guessed from the large number of visitors present on Saturday. At two o'clock there could not have been less than 15,000 persons in the building, and it was not until the great fountains began to play, at three p.m., that the crowd in the eastern nave, where the specimens were shown, had dispersed sufficiently to allow those who came to see the roses to examine them with any degree of comfort. There were several new roses shown, three of which gained first prizes. They were the "Princess of Wales," the "Beauty of Waltham," and "Lord Macaulay," all dark red flowers of somewhat large dimensions.

OUR FEUILLETON.

FRENCH ETIQUETTE UNDER THE "ANCIEN REGIME."

OF the etiquette and heartlessness of the Court of Louis XIV. much has been written, but no one has given such a complete and vivid picture of it as is to be found in the Memoirs of St. Simon. Some of the courtiers carried their formal politeness so far as to earn the contempt even of St. Simon, who was himself by no means lax in matters of etiquette. Thus he tells us that the politeness of the Chevalier de Coislin was "unendurable;" though, while admitting that it passed all bounds, he at the same time informs us that it was "not incompatible with dignity." This nobleman had been Lieutenant-General in the army. Upon one occasion, after a battle in which he had taken part, one of the Rhingraves who had been made prisoner fell to his lot. The Duke de Coislin wished to give up to the noble prisoner his bed, which, after all, consisted only of a mattress. They complimented each other so much—the one pressing, the other refusing—that, in the end, they both slept upon the ground, leaving the mattress between them. The Rhingrave in due time came to Paris and called on the Duke de Coislin. When he was leaving there was such a profusion of compliments, and the Duke insisted so strongly on seeing him out of the house, that the Rhingrave, as a last resource, ran out of the room and double-locked the door outside. M. de Coislin was not thus to be outdone. His apartments were only a few feet above the ground. He opened the window accordingly, leaped out into the court, and arrived thus at the entrance-door before the Rhingrave, who wondered how he got there. The Duke de Coislin, however, had managed to put his thumb out of joint by this leap. He called in Felix, chief surgeon of the King, who soon put the thumb to rights. Shortly afterwards, Felix made a call upon M. de Coislin to see how he was, and found that the cure was perfect. As he was about to leave, M. de Coislin must needs open the door for him. Felix, with a shower of bows, tried hard to prevent this, and, while they were thus vieing in politeness, each with a hand upon the door, the Duke suddenly drew back; he had put his thumb out of joint again, and Felix was obliged to attend to it on the spot.

On another occasion St. Simon and his wife, returning from Fontainebleau, happened to meet M. de Coislin and his son, M. de Metz, on foot upon the Pontneuve road, where their coach had broken down. "We went word accordingly," says St. Simon, "that we should be glad to accommodate them in ours. But message followed message on both sides, and at last I was compelled to alight and to walk through the mud to beg that they would mount into my coach. M. de Coislin, yielding to my prayers, consented to this. M. de Metz was furious with him for his compliments, and at last prevailed on him. When M. de Coislin had accepted my offer, and had nothing more to do than to enter the coach, he began to capitulate, and to protest that he would not displace the two young ladies he saw seated in the vehicle. I told him that the two young ladies were chambermaids, who could well afford to wait until the other carriage was mended. But he would not hear of this, and at last all that M. de Metz and I could do was to compromise the matter by agreeing to take one of the chambermaids with us. When we arrived at the coach they both descended in order to allow us to mount. During the compliments that passed—and they were neither few nor short—I told the servant who held the coach door open to close it as soon as I was inside, and to order the coachman to drive on at once. This was done; but M. de Coislin immediately began to cry aloud that he would jump out if we did not stop for the young ladies; and he set himself to do so in such an odd manner that I had only time to catch hold of the belt of his breeches and hold him back; but he still, with his head hanging out of the window, exclaimed that he would leap out, and endeavoured to do so. At this absurdity I called to the coachman to stop. The chambermaid was ordered to mount; and mount she did, all covered with mud, which daubed us; and she nearly crushed M. de Metz and myself in the carriage, which was made to carry only four."

While chronicling M. de Coislin's unbearable politeness towards others, the punctilious St. Simon at the same time lands him for the determination with which he resisted any act of impoliteness directed against himself. An instance of this occurred one day when M. de Coislin went to the Sorbonne to listen to a thesis sustained by the second son of M. de Bouillon. When persons of distinction delivered these discourses, it was customary for the Princes of the blood and for many of the Court to go and hear them. M. de Coislin was at that time almost last in precedence among the Dukes. When he took his seat, therefore, knowing that a number of them would probably arrive, he left several rows of vacant places in front of him, and sat down. Immediately afterwards Novion, Chief President of the Parliament, arrived and seated himself in front of M. de Coislin. Astonished at this act of madness, as St. Simon calls it, M. de Coislin said not a word, but took an arm-chair, and, while Novion turned his head to speak to Cardinal de Bouillon, placed the arm-chair right in front of the Chief President in such a manner that he was, as it were, imprisoned and unable to stir. M. de Coislin then sat down. This was done so rapidly that no one saw it until it was finished. When once it was observed a great stir arose. Cardinal de Bouillon tried to intervene. M. de Coislin replied that since the Chief President had forgotten his position he must be taught it, and would not budge. The other presidents were in a fright, and Novion, enraged by the insult offered to him, knew not what to do. It was in vain that Cardinal de Bouillon on one side, and his brother on the other, tried to persuade M. de Coislin to give way. He would not listen to them. They sent a message to him to say that somebody wanted to see him at the door on most important business; but this had no effect. "There is no business so important," said M. de Coislin, "as that of teaching the first President what he owes to me, and nothing will make me go from this place unless M. le President, whom you see behind me, goes away first."

The young Duke de Berry is said to have been killed by etiquette; and although a more direct and ordinary means of assassination is hinted at by St. Simon, there can be no doubt but that the young man's life was embittered beyond measure—perhaps even unto death—by the merciless rules and regulations that enchain his existence. Charles Duke de Berry was but twelve years of age; was the third of Louis XIV.'s grandchildren, and the younger brother of the Duke of Burgundy, who was Fenelon's pupil, and for whom the good Archbishop of Cambray wrote the immortal "Télémaque." The child appears in his portrait (painted by De Troy) to be the very personification of happiness, and such he in fact was until his candid, liberal nature found itself imprisoned in the meshes of Court etiquette. At an early age Charles de Berry gave unmistakable signs of his unfitness for the discipline of Court society. He was only seven years old when, disputing with his brother, the Duke of Burgundy, he fell upon him, and, forgetting that he was his senior, and, moreover, heir presumptive to the throne of France, gave him a severe beating. Charles was declared to be a young volcano, and, with the view of preventing any further eruptions, he was handed over to the care of masters who were considered to possess every requisite for damping his ardour. His parents and guardians had, in fact, determined to extinguish him.

The preceptors intrusted with the instruction of the young Duke appear to have been the most pedantic that could possibly be found; and one of the four possessed, in addition to his other qualities, that of gross impertinence. It was he who said to the Duke de Berry and his brother, the Duke of Burgundy, in reference to their first campaign in Flanders,

"You will perhaps gain the kingdom of heaven, gentlemen; but as for that of the earth, I think Prince Eugene and Marlborough are much nearer getting it than you."

The Duke de Berry, not being able to do as he liked at home, nor at the Court, nor even in Flanders, thought he would prove his independence by getting married to a person of his own choice. But here, again, he was deceived. Etiquette declared that there was only one person to whom he could ally himself, and this person happened to be just the one, of all others, whom he detested.

The Duke of Orleans, nephew of the "Grand Monarque," had a daughter to marry, and the only person worthy of her (as she was the only person worthy of him) was this unfortunate Duke de Berry, her second cousin. She is described as "a demon, with the face of an angel," "unsubdued as to her mind, and indomitable as to her heart." She had every kind of talent, every kind of grace, and every kind of vice; the haughtiness of a queen, and the morals of a fishwife. She treated with contempt her father and mother, the King and the Dauphin, and all powers, whether holy or mundane, to say nothing of decency and modesty, of which she had scarcely any idea. Her licentiousness knew no bounds, and St. Simon, her friend, tells us that she went so far as "complete intoxication, and all that usually accompanies that capricious vice." Such was the companion given, by Court etiquette, to the candid and generous-minded Duke de Berry.

"She is the only *parti* suitable to you," said Louis XIV., as he presented him to the Duchess of Orleans in the character of her future son-in-law.

After that the Duke de Berry had, of course, nothing to do but to get married without delay. The union was blessed by the King's Grand Almoner. His Majesty "gave the shirt" to the bridegroom by the hand of M. de Beauvilliers, and performed the corresponding office for the bride through Mme. de St. Simon, after which the King went off quietly to Marly, to play at cards.

When the Duke of Burgundy, the Duke de Berry's elder brother, was on the point of getting married, Mme. de Berry became dreadfully jealous of her husband's future sister-in-law. All-powerful etiquette commanded that she should "donner la chemise" to the bride, but this she positively refused to do, and for a week before the wedding the commotion caused by this refusal was of the most extraordinary kind. The obstinate Duchess screamed at her husband, beat him, and then sobbed so desperately herself that the unfortunate man was only too glad to escape from her. He ran out of the house, and thus the affair was made public. Marly and Versailles heard of it, and the "Grand Monarque" made as much of the matter as though it affected the safety of his throne. After this civil and domestic warfare had lasted about a week the Duchess de Berry gave in. She consented to be present at the toilette of the Duchess of Burgundy, but when the moment for handing her the necessary under-garment arrived, the incorrigible woman absolutely presented her with—a dirty one!

One of the least reprehensible feats of the Duchess de Berry consisted in nearly ruining her husband, who had to sell half his diamonds in order to repair the breach that his amiable wife had made in his fortune. Sometimes she so tormented him that he seemed to have lost his senses. On one of these occasions when he had to make his appearance at a "bed of justice" before all the Peers of France he was so distracted that, having to reply to the speech of the First President, he "took his hat off (in St. Simon's words), put it on again, said solemnly 'Monsieur,' and finally stopped short without being able to utter another word." The worst of this adventure was that the Duke on his return home met the inevitable flatterers who never forsake a great man for very long, and was complimented by them on his speech, which, of course, they had not heard. When the Duke blushed with shame they recommenced their praises, and said that "his ability was only equalled by his modesty."

The Duke lost all patience and self-control. He rushed to Mme. de Simon's, threw himself into a chair, and sobbed violently, calling his wife all sorts of names, and exclaiming, in his despair, "Their only aim has been to keep me down and make me ridiculous. They were determined to ruin me, and they have made me the laughing-stock of the whole world."

When the Duke de Berry died (we have alluded to the doubtful termination of his career), the Duchess, according to the custom of the "widows of the blood," passed several days in bed in a room hung with black, and from which all light was excluded. This amused her exceedingly. St. Simon tells us that "the darkness, from which the King alone was exempted, caused a number of ridiculous scenes and much unbecoming laughter. Persons coming into the room were unable to see in the least and stumbled at every step. The Fathers Du Trévoise and Tellier addressed their compliments to the wall, others addressed theirs to the foot of the bed, which made the Duchess laugh to exhaustion. This fictitious mourning lasted as short a time as possible."

Such scenes, shocking as they appear, were by no means of rare occurrence at the Court of the "Grand Monarque."

When the Duke of Orleans died, the chief officers and others who lost posts and pensions filled the air with their cries, whilst all the women who were at St. Cloud and who lost their amusement ran here and there crying, with dishevelled hair, like Bacchantes. On the very morrow of the day on which "Monsieur" died, some ladies of the palace, upon entering the apartment of Mme. de Maintenon, where the King was with the Duchesse de Bourgogne, heard her from the adjoining chamber singing opera tunes, as though nothing whatever had happened. A little while after, the King, seeing the Duchesse de Bourgogne in a corner of the room, looking very sad, asked Mme. de Maintenon, with surprise, why the Duchess was so melancholy. He then set himself to work to rouse her, and got up various games with her and some ladies of the palace whom he had invited in to join in the sport. This was not all. Before rising from the dinner-table, at a little after two o'clock, and twenty-six hours after the death of Monsieur, Monsieur the Duke de Bourgogne asked the Duke de Montfort if he would play at *brelan*.

"At *brelan*!" cried Montfort, in extreme astonishment. "You cannot mean it! Monsieur is still warm."

"Pardon me!" replied the Prince, "I do mean it, though. The King does not wish that we should be dull here at Marly, and has ordered me to make everybody play; and for fear that no one should dare to begin, to set the example myself;" and with this he began to play at *brelan*; and the salon was soon filled with gaming-tables.

The Duke de Berry, then, was not the only Prince of the blood who died without causing even a well-acted semblance of regret among the members of his own family—to say nothing of the mass of the courtiers, from whom such a feeling could scarcely be expected. The French Court thought only of its own gratification; and if it sometimes allowed its pleasures to be interfered with by a strict and ridiculous system of etiquette, it never suffered them to be checked even for a day by lamentation for the departed, nor by any honourable grief, nor, in fact, by any honourable feeling whatever.

THE IVORY-HUNTER.

JEMIDAR was an ivory-hunter—that is to say, he hunted elephants for the sake of their ivory tusks. A hundred men, all skilled in elephant-hunting, started at once for the valley of Sourabai with the intention of driving their quadrupedal colossal game before them there and surrounding it; and this band was commanded in chief by the said Jemidar.

About six elephants had been separated from a numerous band, and with these it was thought there would be but little trouble, as the elephants of Sourabai are not yet accustomed to firearms, and may easily be approached by the determined sportsman.

Suddenly, however, the six elephants who had been marked out and set apart for destruction, escaped their enemies and rejoined the elephantine herd, which numbered some hundreds. Jemidar entered the valley—now utterly deserted—at the head of the hunters, and a council was held as to the measures to be adopted towards the flying elephants.

"There are but six," said Jemidar, "and, without surrounding them, if we could but meet them face to face, surely a hundred men, well armed as we are with rifles, could dispose of them easily enough."

Cries equivalent to "Hear, hear!" resounded through the valley, when suddenly the six elephants who were supposed to have taken to flight made their appearance on the north-east side, and threatened to make a descent into the interior where the public meeting was being held.

The hundred men were brave, and resolved to stand their ground. They were ordered to fire in parties of twenty-five, and it would be strange, indeed, as Jemidar remarked, if with four volleys they could not dispose of their foes; but, if not, by the time the fourth section had fired the first would have reloaded, and thus a continual discharge would be kept up until the last elephant would have perished. This plan seemed warlike and scientific, and had only this defect, that it was impossible to carry it out. The six elephants were but the advanced guard of the entire herd, which, as we have said, consisted of several hundred, and even the leaders, instead of falling into the scheme of Jemidar and his hunters, and standing still to be shot at en masse, or advancing slowly to be picked off one by one, seemed disposed to charge their assailant, and were already on the point of advancing, when ninety-nine of the hundred hunters took inconspicuously to flight and succeeded in reaching a clump of trees, which they climbed and remained in safety among the branches. But the brave Jemidar was determined to stand his ground. He said to himself that it would be an example to others, and so it was; only it was an example to be avoided, for, as all the others ran away, he, the chief, was in imminent danger of losing his life. What saved him was just what, according to ordinary calculations, ought to have caused his destruction.

Jemidar, as the six elephants advanced, fired and hit one of them in the ear. They immediately halted, and the animal that had received the wound was scarcely more astonished than they all were at the report of the musket. The five who had received no injury seemed much pleased at the effect the shot had had on their companion's ear. This was not cruelty, it was merely their appreciation and admiration of a scientific fact.

"That animal," said the elephants to themselves, "can, with that tube, or stick, or trunk with which nature has provided him, frighten other animals far larger and more powerful than himself, and can even wound them in the ear. We must take him prisoner."

And, before Jemidar could fire again, the elephants were upon him; and the one with the wounded ear took him up tenderly with her trunk, raised him on to her back, and carried him home to the forest where the other elephants, her brothers and sisters, resided.

Jemidar, who wrote this strange and almost incredible story himself, pretends that when he reached the forest the elephant on whose back he was seated knelt down to enable him to alight at his ease, and that he was allowed to eat what he liked—or at least, what he could get—and to go wherever he pleased, provided he did not attempt to pass beyond certain limits, which were guarded by elephants doing duty as sentinels.

The morning after Jemidar's arrival the elephantine camp was, it appears, attacked by an army of some thousand monkeys. The tranquil sages of the desert were invaded by hosts of chattering apes, who, if unable to inflict positive injury, contrived so to annoy and irritate them that more than one elephant seemed to be on the point of expiring from rage.

Then the elephant of the wounded ear approached Jemidar, and, with its little eyes full of large tears, knelt before him, as if to say, "You, who from a distance wounded me, the benevolent, slay these, the insulting, the provoking."

When Jemidar took up his rifle and applied the butt end to his shoulder, a murmur of delight (says Jemidar) ran through the elephantine camp. He fired, and the aggressive monkey came rolling down from the branch whence he had hitherto insulted the philosophical quadruped with impunity.

Another and another bit the dust, and soon the whole tribe of monkeys had taken to flight, leaving some dozen killed or wounded on the ground.

If elephants could have worshipped they would have made Jemidar their god. They allowed him the greatest liberty, and would, in fact, let him do anything he pleased except—leave them.

Fortunately for Jemidar, he knew how to pass through a wood in the Indian style—that is to say, climbing, or throwing himself from branch to branch without ever touching the ground. He began by making short excursions, then went further and further, until at last the elephants began to get accustomed to his absencing himself from them for several hours at a time. Finally, he escaped altogether, succeeded in reaching a party of ivory-hunters, and soon learned to live once more in the society of more or less civilised men. To believe his story from beginning to end is more than we can invite our readers to do. But do not let us accuse Jemidar of mendacity; let us rather say that he exaggerates.

NAPOLEON ON THE MANAGEMENT OF A YOUNG WIFE.

LOUIS BONAPARTE, father of the present Emperor of the French and husband of "La Reine Hortense," was, by all accounts, a kindly disposed man, and did his best to make himself popular with the people—the Dutch—upon whom he had been imposed as Sovereign. He had, as is well known, domestic troubles, and the way in which his brother, the Emperor, appears to have lectured him on these delicate topics is extremely amusing. In a recent volume of the Napoleon correspondence we find the Emperor writing after the following fashion:—

"Your quarrels with your wife have also reached the ears of the public. Observe in your interior the paternal and effeminate conduct which you exhibit in your Government, and practise in your Government that severity which you practise in your family. You treat your young wife as one would command a regiment. Have no confidence in the persons who surround you; you are encompassed by none but nobles. The opinion of those people is always in contradiction with that of the public. Beware! you are beginning to be unpopular both at Rotterdam and Amsterdam. The Catholics are beginning to fear you. How is it that you do not give places to any? Ought you not to protect your religion? All this shows little strength of character. You pay too much court to a part of the nation and you irritate the rest. What have those knights done to whom you have given decorations? Where are the wounds they received for their country, the distinguished talents which recommend them? I do not say all, but at least three-fourths of them. Many of them have been recommended by the English party, and are the cause of the misfortunes of their country. Should they be ill-treated? No, but conciliated. I, too, have emigrants about me, but I do not let them get the upper hand, and when they think they have carried a point they are not nearer to it than when they were abroad, because I govern by system, not by weakness. You have the best and most virtuous of wives, and you make her unhappy. Let her dance as much as she pleases; it is natural for one of her age. I have a wife who is forty years of age. I write to her from the field of battle to attend balls, and you expect that a woman of twenty, who sees her life passing away, and who possesses all its illusions, should live in a cloister, or like a nurse always washing her child. You spend too much time in your house, and not enough in your office. I would not say all this were it not for the interest I bear you. Make the mother of your children happy. You have but one way of doing it, which is by giving her proofs of your esteem and confidence. Unfortunately, you have a wife who is too virtuous; if you had a flirt she would lead you by the nose. But you have a proud woman, whom the very idea that you have a bad opinion of her disgusts and afflicts. You should have a woman like some of those I know in Paris. She would have tripped you up, and would have you fast at her knees. It is not my fault, and I have often told your wife so.

"For the rest, you may commit your follies in your kingdom; this is very well, but I do not mean you shall do so with me. You offer your decorations to everybody, and many have written to me of this who have no title. I am sorry that you do not feel that you are deficient in the respect you owe me. My intention is that nobody shall wear decorations in my family, being resolved not to wear any myself. If you ask me the reason, I reply that you have not yet performed any act to deserve that men should wear your picture, which, moreover, you instituted without my permission, and, in fact, you are too lavish of them. What have all those persons done to whom you give them?"

WOODIN.

It is about ten or eleven years since Mr. Woodin first appeared before the London public in the capacity of entertainer. Since then it is needless to say how great has been his success, how many thousands he has delighted, and how under his management—he being not only his own manager but also his own company—the little Polygraphic Hall, in King William-street, Charing-cross, has thriven, until at last it has become an institution and an integral portion of the amusements of London. Not only professed play-goers, but that larger section of the public which has a vague terror of the theatre, look for "Woodin's Entertainment" as regularly as their seaside trip, their Christmas festivities, or the first oyster of the season.

This year Mr. Woodin has given his patrons an entirely new entertainment—or rather two new entertainments—for the first part, which bears the capital title of "Elopement Extraordinary," is from the pen of Mr. John Oxenford, and is entirely separate and apart from the second part, which has been written by Mr. Robertson, and is called, "Bachelor's Box."

"Elopement Extraordinary" occurs on a railway platform, and in a first-class carriage. Mr. Woodin, as Miss Araminta Minerva Holdfast, a strong-minded young lady, takes advantage of the laws of leap-year and runs off with a weak-minded young gentleman, one Mr. Augustus Fitzgig, to the great delight of her uncle, Mr. Jonathan Holdfast. A negro melodist and an Irish porter also make their appearance, and when the scene changes to the interior of the railway-carriage, four persons at once and the same time are, as the show-man says, "distinctly visible, and to be seen by the naked eye;" and yet all these four persons—a young lady, a young gentleman, an elderly ditto, and a ticket-collector—are the same Woodin, one and divisible. As to the manner in which this impossible feat is accomplished, we must be silent; but we may congratulate the entertainer on the fact of the enlightenment of the present century; for had the same thing been done in the "good old days," as the term goes—say the days of bluff King Hal—he would have shared the fate of witches, sorcerers, and conjurers of evil spirits, and been conducted to the stake at Smithfield amid the execrations of a howling mob.

Want of space will not permit us to do full justice to the first part of the entertainment, as our Engraving treats only of the characters in the second. "Bachelor's Box" is a charming suburban villa, tenanted by Mr. Pappington, that elderly gentleman in a flannel dressing-gown and a white beard, with the watering-pot in one hand and a spade in the other. He is an irascible old man, is Mr. Pappington, with a large number of pet aversions—such as densely-populated neighbourhoods, the feline race, children, noise, and evening parties. Mr. Pappington became the tenant of "Bachelor's Box" because he erroneously supposed it to be a secluded neighbourhood, where he could avoid society and cultivate in peace his flowers and his "fads." But, alas! vain are the hopes of man. He is himself compelled to give parties; and an extra boy (the lad to the right in the costume of the red-shirted shoe-brigade) is hired to clean the knives and forks for an approaching festivity. The extra boy is sharp and shrewd, and moralises about boots—side-springs, bluchers, and wellingtons—in the same philosophic strain that Shakespeare's Jaques might have moralised had he chosen, and had he been born in the present century and enlisted in the Shoeblack Brigade. The lady at the front window is Mr. Pappington's only sister Pamela. She is not young, she is not beautiful; but, as a set-off, she is highly romantic and poetical, and harbours no feeling of aversion to the opposite sex. How it is that Miss Pamela is still a spinster we cannot tell, and perhaps even Mr. Woodin himself could not inform us; but, as Mrs. Gamp says, "Seeh is life, which likewise is the end of all things." The individual whose back is robed in door-mats is Mr. Hoakum, called by his familiars, in playful recognition of his extreme ugliness, Handsome Hoakum. His occupation is that of selling mats of different fibres—floss, rope, and cocoa; and it is not impossible that with that industrious occupation he may blend the picking up of any unconsidered trifles left in the way by careless servants. But this is libellous; and if Mr. Hoakum dared to violate the laws, is there not F 143, the policeman, to mark his track and promptly punish him? Not that F 113, who looks over the wall of Bachelor's Box because it is upon his beat, harbours professional intentions; no, he loiters near the "Box" for love, that divine passion to which princes, poets, and even the new police must bend the knee. F 143 has his weaknesses, like other men; and they are cold meat, when smoking joints are inaccessible, sandwiches "hot 't' the mouth" with mustard, and Mr. Pappington's house-maid, Jane, Jane herself—the young person near the door carrying refreshments—reciprocates the honourable attachment of F 143, and "finds him" in delicate attentions, whisky, and highly flavoured morceaux. Start, the man lighting the gas-lamp, is, as the reader will suppose, a lamplighter, and, when the tawny veil of night is drawn over "Bachelor's Box," ignites the last lamp on the road. Le Commandant Girofleure, the very Parisian military swell with the cocked-hat, is a French gentleman who has been attending a fancy-dress ball in the neighbourhood, and has lost his way, and who, fired by wine and admiration of English hospitality, drinks the whisky placed by Jane the housemaid for the active and intelligent F 143. Miss Euphemia Pappington, the blonde beauty in the centre, is Mr. Pappington's niece. She has also been of the party; but the excitement of the ball, which has had so favourable an effect upon her charms, has not had so happy an effect upon her temper. Mr. Fulke Hollum, the gentleman to the left of Miss Euphemia, delights in the early intelligence of newspapers and in still earlier morning calls. Gonoph, the seedy man seated on the stool, of spare habit and full-bodied umbrella, is an occasional waiter. His shabby swallow-tailed coat gives him a bird-like appearance consonant to his predatory habits. He combines the gentility of the greengrocer with the instincts of the vulture. To him an evening party is as a battle-field and his umbrella is his maw. The gentleman in Highland garb is the McTartan of Glensnuffbog. We need not say he is a Scotchman on a visit to England, which visit lasts his lifetime. Why he should dance a fling at early morn is a secret between his own nationality and Mr. Woodin's conscience. The snow that falls over Bachelor's Box and the surrounding country whitens the very sweep and his apparatus until Jane, the house-maid, intent on her beloved F 143 and early milk, mistakes him for a ghost. The milkman at the gate, who so evidently has despaired through life the theory of Mr. Banting, is one Joe Huggins, a teetotaler of the teetotalist abstinence; indeed, such is his love of temperance that he compels the article he vends to consume water, which we hear is not an uncommon case in his profession. Mr. and Mrs. Howser, the lady and gentleman in the gig, are representatives of manly fierceness and feminine fear.

"But," we can imagine those of our readers who have not yet seen the entertainment inquiring, "does Mr. Woodin, unaided, represent all these different persons?"

To which question our answer must be, "Yes!"

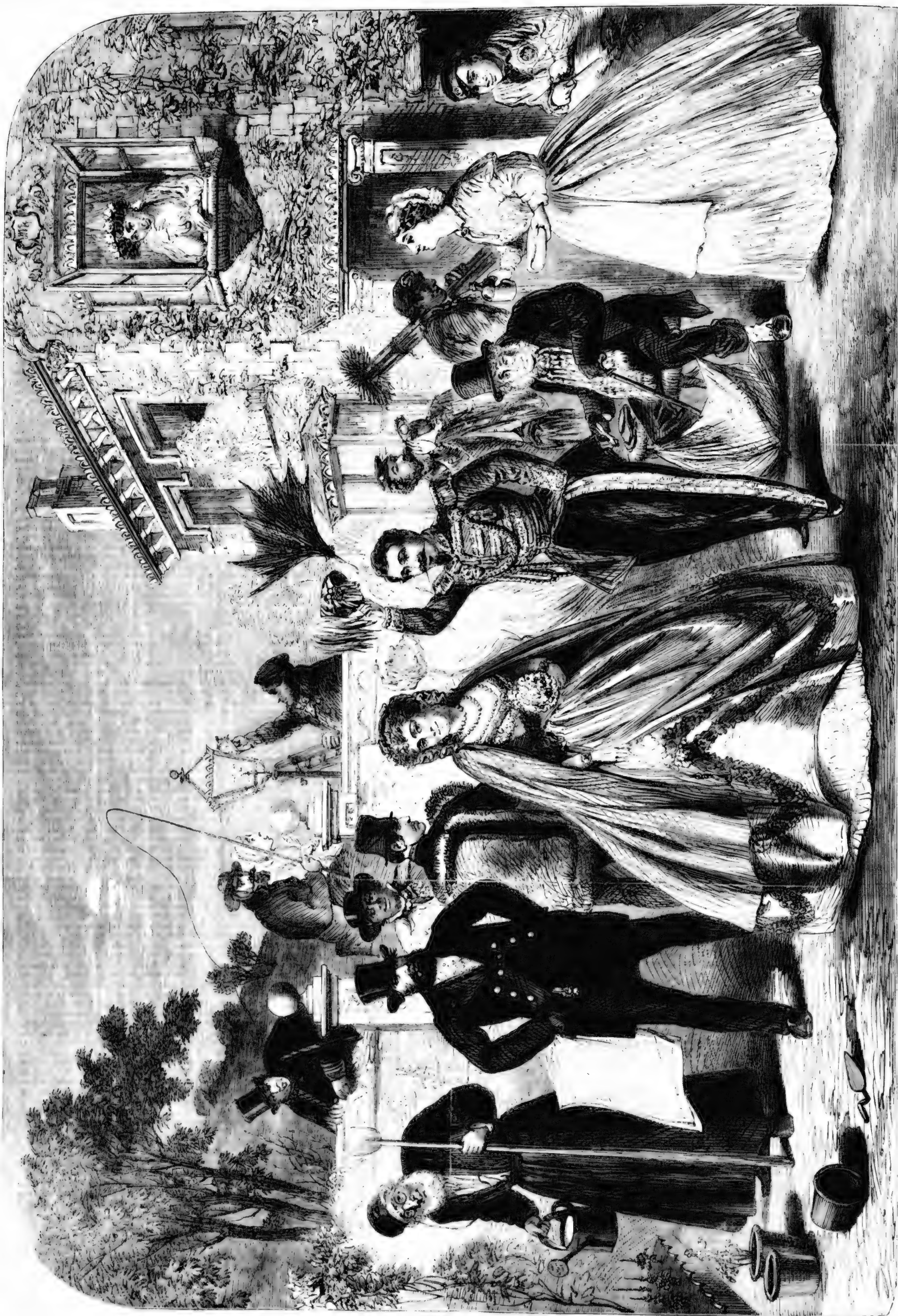
"But all at the same time?"

To which our reply must be, "Some of them."

"But it is impossible!"

To which we must echo, "It is impossible." Still it is done every evening but Saturday, and on that day in the afternoon. For the *modus operandi* we must refer sceptics to Mr. Woodin himself and to the Polygraphic Hall.

A REWARD FROM THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO A LIFE-BOAT'S CREW.—The Swedish and Norwegian Government has just forwarded £24 for distribution amongst the crew of the Southport life-boat belonging to the National Life-boat Institution, for their gallant services in rescuing, during a gale of wind, seventeen persons from the barque Tamworth, of Skein, Norway, which was totally wrecked on Trunk-hill Sandbank, about five miles from Southport, on the 31st of October last. The Swedish Government has also sent a silver medal to William Rockliff, the coxswain of the life-boat, in acknowledgment of his brave and skilful conduct on the occasion. The Life-boat society had previously rewarded the men for their laudable services on the occasion in question, and Rockliff is also in possession of the silver medal of the institution.



M. N. W. & WOODIN IN THE VARIOUS CHARACTERS IN HIS NEW ENTERTAINMENT "THE BACHELOR'S BOY."



"REPOSE."—(FROM A PICTURE BY HENRI LEHMANN, IN THE PARIS EXHIBITION OF THE FINE ARTS.)

THE RESTORATION OF THE APPARENTLY DEAD FROM DROWNING.

The following important "Instructions for the Restoration of the Apparently Dead from Drowning" are the result of the very extensive

inquiries recently made by the Royal National Life-boat Institution amongst medical men, medical bodies, and coroners throughout the United Kingdom.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have ordered 1000 of these important instructions to be circulated throughout her

Majesty's Fleet, and the Commodore-Controller-General of the Coastguard has also requested that 2000 of the directions should be circulated throughout the Coastguard Service.

The accompanying Illustrations cannot fail to make the Instructions perfectly intelligible to every one, and in issuing them



INSPIRATION.

POSITION OF THE BODY OF A DROWNED PERSON DURING THE EMPLOYMENT OF DR. MARSHALL HALL'S METHOD OF INDUCING RESPIRATION.



EXPIRATION.



INSPIRATION.

POSITION OF THE BODY OF A DROWNED PERSON DURING THE EMPLOYMENT OF DR. SILVESTER'S METHOD OF INDUCING RESPIRATION.



EXPIRATION.

the National Life-boat Institution is entitled to the gratitude of the community.

DIRECTIONS FOR RESTORING THE APPARENTLY DROWNED.

Send immediately for medical assistance, blankets, and dry clothing, but proceed to treat the patient instantly on the spot, in the open air, with the face downwards, whether on shore or afloat; exposing the face, neck, and chest to the wind, except in severe weather, and removing all tight clothing from the neck and chest, especially the braces. The points to be aimed at are—first and immediately, the restoration of breathing; and, secondly, after breathing is restored, the promotion of warmth and circulation.

The efforts to restore breathing must be commenced immediately and energetically, and persevered in for one or two hours, or until a medical man has pronounced that life is extinct. Efforts to promote warmth and circulation, beyond removing the wet clothes and drying the skin, must not be made until the first appearance of natural breathing; for if circulation of the blood be induced before breathing has recommenced, the restoration to life will be endangered.

TO RESTORE BREATHING.

To Clear the Throat.—Place the patient on the floor or ground with the face downwards, and one of the arms under the forehead, in which position all fluids will more readily escape by the mouth, and the tongue itself will fall forward, leaving the entrance into the windpipe free. Assist this operation by wiping and cleansing the mouth. If satisfactory breathing commence, use the treatment described below to promote warmth. If there be only slight breathing, or no breathing, or if the breathing fail, then,

To Excite Breathing.—Turn the patient well and instantly on the side, supporting the head, and excite the nostrils with snuff, hartshorn, and smelling salts, or tickle the throat with a feather, &c., if they are at hand. Rub the chest and face warm, and dash cold water, or cold and hot water alternately, on them. If there be no success, lose not a moment, but instantly,

To Imitate Breathing.—Replace the patient on the face, raising and supporting the chest well on a folded coat or other article of dress. Turn the body very gently on the side and a little beyond, and then briskly on the face, back again, repeating these measures cautiously, efficiently, and perseveringly about fifteen times in the minute, or once every four or five seconds, occasionally varying the side. (By placing the patient on the chest, the weight of the body forces the air out; when turned on the side this pressure is removed, and air enters the chest.)

On each occasion that the body is replaced on the face, make uniform but efficient pressure with brisk movement, on the back between and below the shoulder-blades or bones on each side, removing the pressure immediately before turning the body on the side. During the whole of the operations let one person attend solely to the movements of the head and of the arm placed under it. (The first measure increases the expiration, the second commences inspiration.) The result is respiration, or natural breathing, and, if not too late, life.

Whilst the above operations are being proceeded with dry the hands and feet, and as soon as dry clothing or blankets can be procured, strip the body and cover, or gradually reclothe it, but taking care not to interfere with the efforts to restore breathing.

DR. SILVESTER'S METHOD.

Should these efforts not prove successful in the course of from two to five minutes, proceed to imitate breathing by Dr. Silvester's method, as follows:—

Place the patient on the back on a flat surface, inclined a little upwards from the feet; raise and support the head and shoulders on a small firm cushion or folded article of dress placed under the shoulder-blades.

Draw forward the patient's tongue and keep it projecting beyond the lips. An elastic band over the tongue and under the chin will answer this purpose, or a piece of string or tape may be tied round them; or, by raising the lower jaw, the teeth may be made to retain the tongue in that position. Remove all tight clothing from about the neck and chest, especially the braces.

To Imitate the Movements of Breathing.—Standing at the patient's head, grasp the arms just above the elbows, and draw the arms gently and steadily upwards above the head, and keep them stretched upwards for two seconds. (By this means air is drawn into the lungs.) Then turn down the patient's arms, and press them gently and firmly for two seconds against the sides of the chest. (By this means air is pressed out of the lungs.) Repeat these measures alternately, deliberately, and perseveringly about fifteen times in a minute, until a spontaneous effort to respire is perceived, immediately upon which cease to imitate the movements of breathing, and proceed to induce circulation and warmth.

TREATMENT AFTER NATURAL BREATHING HAS BEEN RESTORED.

To Promote Warmth and Circulation.—Commence rubbing the limbs upwards, with firm grasping pressure and energy, using handkerchiefs, flannels, &c.; by this measure the blood is propelled along the veins towards the heart. The friction must be continued under the blanket or over the dry clothing. Promote the warmth of the body by the application of hot flannels, bottles, or bladders of hot water, heated bricks, &c., to the pit of the stomach, the armpits, between the thighs, and to the soles of the feet. If the patient has been carried to a house after respiration has been restored, be careful to let the air play freely about the room. On the restoration of life, a teaspoonful of warm water should be given; and then, if the power of swallowing have returned, small quantities of wine, warm brandy-and-water, or coffee should be administered. The patient should be kept in bed, and a disposition to sleep encouraged. The above treatment should be persevered in for some hours, as it is an erroneous opinion that persons are irrecoverable because life does not soon make its appearance, persons having been restored after perseverance for many hours.

APPEARANCES WHICH GENERALLY ACCOMPANY DEATH.

Breathing and the heart's action cease entirely; the eyelids are generally half-closed; the pupils dilated; the jaws clenched; the fingers semi-contracted; the tongue approaches to the under edges of the lips, and these, as well as the nostrils, are covered with a frothy mucus. Coldness and pallor of surface increase.

CAUTIONS.

Prevent unnecessary crowding of persons round the body, especially if in an apartment. Avoid rough usage, and do not allow the body to remain on the back unless the tongue is secured. Under no circumstances hold the body up by the feet. On no account place the body in a warm bath, unless under medical direction, and even then it should only be employed as a momentary excitant.

"REPOSE."

WE have already spoken of M. Lehmann's pictures in the French Exhibition of Fine Arts, and a recent Number contained an Engraving taken from one of those Italian studies in which he has been so successful. We are able this week to publish an illustration of a still more characteristic painting by the same artist, and one which, while it is taken from the same people as those who furnished the model for "Giacinta," is more genuinely expressive of M. Lehmann's ability for seizing the life-like points of his subject, even when he is intent rather on a composition than on an illustration of ordinary and everyday scenes. "Repose" is, in fact, admirable, both as a picture and as a truthful representation of that side of Italian life which furnishes so many subjects for the artist—that Bohemian, vagabond, romantic side, the representatives of which are often but ragged, indolent, and unscrupulous mountebanks, but as often preserve characteristics of look and bearing which remind one of something afar off in a nobler and perhaps better race, of which they are the descendants. In this very picture, the face of the woman is one which the traveller may see repeated a score of times amongst the female dwellers on the banks of the Tiber who go to wash linen opposite St. Angelo; and the man, poor *paillasse*, has about him a half wild, melancholy poetry, which is wonderfully suggestive. Whatever people may

think, the life of these *pifferari*, conjurers, acrobats, Bohemians, is no easy one, after all; indeed, it may be doubted whether those who live to amuse because they must amuse to live ever do have a very easy time; and these poor wanderers are certainly no exception to the rule. What with long marches, exposure to the weather, which stains and sullies their poor bits of professional finery, bad times, an unsuccessful "pitch," and the wearisome necessity for practising old and inventing new tricks, both man and wife may well look weary, although they may have to call up a fictitious smile for the next lured audience. There is a touching, pensive appeal in both the tired, jaded faces which the artist has reproduced with admirable effect; and it is the human feeling evoked by the picture, as well as its artistic merit, which has drawn to it so large a share of popular attention.

Literature.

Strife and Rest. By the Author of "Agnes Home." 2 vols. Tinsley, Brothers.

To any mind of ordinary generosity it is not pleasant to qualify praise for discovered improvements by detecting the fallings-off from a former standard. But yet, something like that must be done whilst remembering "Agnes Home" and comparing it with "Strife and Rest." A certain fascination of style is common—or, shall we say, "mutual?"—to both; a style fresh and vigorous, and marked by indications of good taste and the best society. "Agnes Home" amused at once; but the interest was not awakened until midway, when it was suddenly intense with incident of the most daring description; but it fell off towards the end, and was even tedious, and the flimsy chain of events which led to a happy conclusion had all the effect of having been added to the story in order to make up a volume that should not be better but fatter. "Strife and Rest," on the contrary, has the merit of being readable throughout, and, to a certain extent, interesting. Its psychological interest is rather commonplace, but it is at least common-sense. Such startling incident as there is comes in wisely towards the close; and the unexpected happy ending seems the most natural thing in the world. The title will apply to almost everybody in the dramatic personae. The parson with doubts settles down to a country curacy and hot, fussy dinners. The ambitious M.P. loses his seat and enjoys his ease. The extravagant lady of fashion finds country life quite as fascinating as a London season. They all agree to quit their strife, and rest and be thankful. But the chief strife is that between the Rev. Ernest Heathcote and Mrs. Laura Gaysford. Laura has a sister, Helen, who has been for years "next door" to an engagement with Ernest; but that careful gentleman suddenly thinks that he can serve God to advantage on his £300 a year, but that he cannot marry Helen on it; and, unfortunately, he cannot hope for the family living of £1700 for a very long time to come. Thus, Helen's heart is nearly broken; and so, it being of no use whatever, she liberally devotes it to the Church; is speedily afflicted with doubts; and finds that fever-visiting, and the conventual life generally, are in no way her vocation. However, when this distressed damsel returns to dinners, balls, and the rest, she thinks that that kind of thing also is not her vocation; and so it seems difficult to make out of what use she can be in this world, when—but that is all told at the end of volume two. For this usage of her sister, Laura determines to punish the Rev. Ernest Heathcote. She flatters him—fascinates him. He is made to go from opera to ball. She undermines his principles, and reduces him from an honest hardworking Churchman to a hypochondriacal, sceptical dreamer and madman; and, indeed, to something worse, which need not be described here. A specimen of the earlier upsetting of the clerical mind will show that the author does not write without reflection. The parson's argument is cleverly worked out; but the lady, according to her intentions, certainly gets the better of her antagonist:—

"You don't seem to care much about our country," at length the lady said.

"Well," he replied, with something of an effort, "I can't say it's very striking or picturesque."

"To me all country is beautiful," replied Laura. "This purple heath, with the grey stone, is to me far more than what people call the glories of Rome or Venice."

"Why don't you finish your sentence with the eminently new and striking phrase, 'God made the country and man the town'?" said her companion, with a sneer.

"People forget, and you forget," he continued, "with something like interest, that man is the highest and noblest of God's works, and that man's highest, purest, noblest work—the result of days and nights of thought and labour (I don't care what it is, whether it is painting or sculpture, or the building of churches or cities)—is as much a work of God, who gave him the brain to conceive and the hand to execute, as is a mountain or a river. Tell me, is it not so?" he asked.

She did not answer his question, and he continued, "Man is made up of good and evil. The good that is in him comes from God, and the good and great works that spring from that good come from God. The evil comes from the source of evil. But other things in nature are of an equally composite character. The sea that tempts us with its calm beauty to bathe or sail, overwhelms us in a moment with destruction. The same fire that warms us and cooks the food which sustains life, has in it the elements of torture and death. Even the mountains, that appear so lovely with the sunset fading and dying in rose and purple on their peaks, have their evil too—luring men to climb them, and then causing them to perish miserably with cold and hunger or dashing them to pieces hundreds of feet below. Man only shares the evil with everything else in nature."

Laura looked at her companion. The poison was bringing forth its fruit now—the mind once calm and trustful in goodness and truth, had grown fitful, fevered, morbid, viewing even the bright things of earth and air as false and flitting, and created only to work evil.

These two people pay bitterly for their strife, but they come out of it in time, after a fashion, and rest. It must be understood that these affairs of the moralities and consciences are described without the least touch of cant, or "slang" as it has been called, which has disfigured too much of our modern proselytising fiction. The author says, truly enough, that the present age is eminently religious, and that few pictures of life and manners would be perfect if something in the way of religious opinion were not given. But he himself never soars up into sermon regions, and is no more polemical than gentlemen are allowed to be at their dinner-tables. For the rest, we may say that many characters will be better liked than those we have mentioned. There is a sketch of a Bishop who advocates the clergy making men of the world of themselves and avoiding the interference of young ladies with their slippers, church-hangings, and braces. The Horace Fane family, and others, may be dismissed as excellent members of fashionable society; but amongst the best people in the book are the good old country Baronet, enormously rich, who suffers his son to marry a charming Miss Nobody, instead of the splendid heiress whose estates join his own. The son, the handsomest dandy of his day, is well drawn; a sensible, well read man, great in his family history, instead of being that mere "swell" who is by no means so common as Mr. Leech supposes.

The author of "Strife and Rest" seems to be both literary and political in his taste. His chapters are called "A Vision of Sin," "A Lost Love," "The Cloister and the Hearth," and "Once more upon the Waters," and "Somebody is always talking about a 'Charles Auchester.'" The events which led to the formation of Lord Derby's two Governments are discussed with freedom and disdainful summing-up against all the chiefs of the other party, except "old Lewis," as somebody is made to call him; and a very transparent disguise of Lord Derby is boldly taken out of St. James-square to a dinner-party, at which his Lordship conducts himself in a manner which may be far too austere for many readers. Such liberties are evidently copies of Disraeli, and amusing copies.

The Antediluvian History and Narrative of the Flood, as set forth in the early Portions of the Book of Genesis, critically Examined and Explained. By the Rev. E. D. RENDELL, of Preston. Second Edition, revised. F. Pittman.

This is a profoundly silly book, belonging to a style of exegesis which, we should have fancied, was long ago exploded. Declining,

for good reasons, to go into the general subject, we feel at liberty to quote, for our readers, a few items out of the queerest and most unconsciously absurd "Index" that mortal man ever appended to a book:—

Character, springs from love, 101	Hills, high, covered, 302
Chloroform, objected to when first employed, 135	Heresies, prolific, 196
Church, an ark of safety, 257	Ideas, general and particular, 221
Colenso, his Statements the opinions of many, 4	Interpretation necessary, 3
Fear, the result of wrong-doing, 179	Mental characteristics of the Antediluvians, 227
Female characteristics, 44	Wiseman, Dr., cited, 20
Fishes, their signification, 41	Wicked, the, can be clever, 181
Fowls, their signification, in a good and bad sense, 91, 305	Wives, the choice of, 230

This is a dainty dish to set before a king, indeed! How far is it from Hyde Park-corner to the middle of next week? That is precisely the sort of question Dr. Rendell should set himself to answer; and he must not imagine that those of his reviewers who tell him so are ignorant of Swedenborgian writings. It is not his fault that he has no sense of humour; but neither is it other people's fault when they find him so very funny without meaning it.

Stimulants and Narcotics; their Mutual Relations. With Special Researches on the Action of Alcohol, Ether, and Chloroform on the Vital Organism. By FRANCIS E. ANSTIE, M.D., M.R.C.P. Macmillan and Co.

We are obliged to refer again to this book, on account of a fatal misprint in our last Number. The question discussed is not whether alcohol is "good" or not, but the long-debated scientific question, "Is Alcohol Food or not?" Dr. Anstie says it is, and collects evidence in support of the affirmative.

Everybody who has read a teetotal tract must have met the assertion that there is no "support" in alcohol; that you had better take the barley than drink the whisky, for the alcohol is only a "stimulant." This, on the other hand, has been doubted, and Dr. Anstie contends that the doubters were right—that alcohol may be as truly food as beef or bread.

OPERA, CONCERTS, AND NEW MUSIC.

IN spite of Mlle. Titiens' admirable performance in "Fidelio," we observe that that opera is already announced by Mr. Mapleson as about to be given for the last time, and the next "novelty" at Her Majesty's Theatre will be the Italian version of Gounod's "Mireille."

At the Royal Italian Opera "Faust," with Mlle. Patti in the part of the heroine, continues to be the great attraction. On Tuesday next the charming "Elisir d'Amore" is to be produced, with Mlle. Patti as Adina, Mario as Nemorino, and Ronconi as Dulcamara.

At the next Monday Popular Concert, the last of the present series, all the greatest instrumentalists in London are announced to appear. Mlle. Arabella Goddard will play a selection from Mendelssohn's "Songs without Words," and will join Herr Joachim in the Kreutzer Sonata; Joachim and Wieniawski are to perform Spohr's grand duet, Wieniawski and Hallé will be heard together in a rondo by Schubert, and Hallé will execute several solo pieces by Chopin and Heller. Altogether, the programme of this concert is the best and most attractive that we ever saw.

We heard a popular composer complain the other day that it was impossible for him to produce a masterpiece without attracting the attention of a host of waltz and polka makers, quadrille manufacturers, fantasia-builders, and other musical operatives, who were sure to fall upon his work, and, under pretence of arranging it, tear it to pieces and present the fragments in new and strange shapes. Under these circumstances, our friend seemed to think that it would be better for him to abstain from writing masterpieces altogether. He threatened to do so, and we believe he will keep his word. In the meanwhile, the musical operatives of whom our friend complained continue their labours; the last novelty on which they have pounced being Nicolai's "Falstaff," or "The Merry Wives of Windsor" as the work is called by the English publishers—to distinguish it, no doubt, from the opera produced many years ago under the name of "Falstaff" by Mr. Balfe. We cannot, for our part, see that the arrangers of melodies for the piano (as long as they do not disarrange them in their essential parts, which sometimes happens) are at all the enemies of the original composers. They do very much for operas what reviewers do for books, when, instead of criticising them, they give a general sketch of the work, with here and there a verbatim extract. We are not speaking now of the "arrangers" who make songs into quadrilles, airs in triple time into polkas, airs in quadruple time into waltzes, and who, even in their happiest efforts, are often obliged to pull out or to chop off the ends of their stolen melodies, in order to adjust them to the precise forms of dance music. These are practices which can only be defended on the ground that they are successful. There are hundreds of thousands of music purchasers who like quadrilles founded on operatic airs; and, the demand existing, the supply is sure to be forthcoming.

If the writers of fantasias on operatic airs may be likened to a certain class of reviewers, the reviewer of fantasias must bear some sort of resemblance to a reviewer of reviews. However that may be, we have before us a quantity of fantasias, transcriptions, and pieces of various kinds for the piano—some arranged as solos, some as duets—all founded upon Nicolai's "Falstaff," and all published by Messrs. Boosey and Sons, Holles-street, Cavendish-square. Of all these arrangements that of the favourite airs (as a solo and as a duet) by Rudolf Normann contains the greatest amount of Nicolai's music. Mr. Normann simply transcribes the airs. He neither adds to them, nor takes away. He does not attempt to embellish, and therefore does not spoil them. Such arrangements as his are not only desirable, but are absolutely necessary for persons who wish to become practically acquainted with a new opera through its principal melodies. Each of Mr. Normann's arrangements (one, as we have said, for two hands, the other for four) is published in two books.

Herr Wilhelm Ganz has written a brilliant and not very difficult fantasia on airs from "Falstaff," entitled "The Merry Wives of Windsor, fantasia, by Wilhelm Ganz."

Another fantasia on "The Merry Wives of Windsor" (commencing very appropriately with "Rule Britannia," which naturally suggests the British Sovereign, who lives in Windsor Castle, which is situated in Windsor, which was the abode of the merry wives) is by Mlle. Oury. It is a little easier than Herr Ganz's piece, and introduces most of the principal airs.

Another arrangement, still easier than Mlle. Oury's, and introducing a greater number of melodies than any of the other pieces founded on the same opera (with the exception, of course, of Mr. Normann's transcription of almost the entire work), is by Mr. Emile Berger, and is entitled "Merry Wives of Windsor; bouquet de melodies."

The galop from "Falstaff" (which, as those who have heard the opera are aware, really does contain a galop in the last act, and a very good one) has been arranged as a separate piece by Mr. Victor Colline.

Mr. Victor Colline has also extracted from the same fruitful work materials for a waltz and for a quadrille. Nicolai's lively opera is less unsuited to this sort of treatment than many other works—"Fidelio," for instance. Our readers think, no doubt, that there is but little chance of "Fidelio" being hashed up into quadrilles? For our part, we are not nearly so certain on that point. We have already heard a so-called "classical quadrille," founded on motives by the great masters and introducing, among other melodies worthy of a better fate, Mendelssohn's wedding march, from "The Midsummer Night's Dream," and the slow movement from Beethoven's Kreutzer sonata. After this there does not seem to be much harm in Mr. Victor Colline making up the tunes of Nicolai's "Falstaff" into a quadrille; and, whether there be harm in it or not, Mr. Victor Colline has done it; and the quadrille, like the rest of the pianoforte music from "Falstaff," is published by Messrs. Boosey.

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